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Haig keeps flag flying despite demonstrations

cretary of State Haig's visit to West rlin may have gone gratifyingly ding to plan. He may have reiter- US guarantees for the city. There have been no violence at the anti- demonstration itself.

t there is no getting away from the ceful nature of the anti-American ts that accompanied his visit.

will remain a black mark in the ry of the city that a high-ranking government official, representing one Berlin's protecting powers, had to be ed direct contact with the people on unt of a politically irresponsible and ets demonstration.

rotecting the visitor from a minority had manoeuvred itself into an un- ble position was one way of dealing the situation.

But this time it would have been bet- to hold a pro-American rally and w Mr Haig that the people of Berlin not ingrateful.

No West Berliner who is old enough emember can possibly forget that the ricans launched the airlift when tried to starve the city into sur- der.

he Americans were also to the fore ng the Western powers whenever ness was called for in countering chief by Moscow and East Berlin.

hey were largely responsible for en- g that West Berlin retained its dom.

r Haig said in Berlin that in defend- democracy America was also defend- g the right to demonstrate — an ar- ment that should have shamed his ics.

It remains to be seen, however, whet- r US public opinion, after seeing foo- e of the demonstration on TV, shares e Secretary of State's view of the situa- n.

Did the journalists accompanying Mr aig succeed in reassuring America that ly a minority took to the streets, whe- as the majority of Berliners still realise ly too well to whom they owe their edom?

The general sigh of relief breathed en the security measures proved to ve worked is no guarantee as to the sequences of the demonstration against Mr Haig in US day-to-day politics.

US opinion has lately taken to reacting extremely sensitively to anything that could even remotely be interpreted as anti-American in trend.

So one cannot, at least, rule out the possibility of the Berlin demonstration strengthening the hand of political forces in Washington that favour a US withdrawal from Europe.

There is certainly a powerful lobby in support of at least thinning out the US military presence in Berlin and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The circumstances that accompanied Secretary Haig's Berlin visit in no way detracted from its substantial political importance.

He said Berlin was a cornerstone of the US commitment in Europe and not only reaffirmed US government pledges on Berlin but also genuinely linked the fate of the city with the freedom of the Western world.

The demonstrative and direct inclusion of Bonn Foreign Minister Genscher in the programme of Mr Haig's Berlin visit likewise testified in no uncertain terms to Washington's determination to stress the ties between Berlin and the Federal Republic.

America is thus keen to reaffirm these ties and has no intention of allowing them either to be undermined or called into question.

Mr Haig also stressed US readiness to enter into arms control talks with the Soviet Union, thereby reiterating America's commitment to the December 1979 twofold Nato resolution.

Nato, it will be recalled, ruled that a military balance was essential if disar-

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Secretary of State Haig in West Berlin flanked by Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (left) and the city's mayor, Richard von Weizsäcker. (Photo: dpa)

Schmidt and Spadolini find plenty to talk about



Talks between a Bonn Chancellor and an Italian prime minister are often given disparaging references.

This month during Helmut Schmidt's visit to Rome, that sort of comment was quite inappropriate.

The international economic crisis, the heated arms debate and the tense situation in the Mediterranean would alone have sufficed to ensure a full agenda.

Since there were no points at issue between Bonn and Rome Helmut Schmidt took the opportunity of his visit to Italy to give Washington a piece of his mind.



A big agenda. Italian Prime Minister Giovanni Spadolini (left) welcomes Chancellor Schmidt to Rome.

He told Mr Reagan more clearly than ever before that from the start he had not felt the manufacture of the neutron bomb was desirable at this stage.

Unfortunately neither he nor other US allies were asked for their views on the subject.

With an amazingly straightforward comment in the Italian political context the Chancellor's host, Premier Govanni Spadolini, lent Herr Schmidt support by saying the United States had merely taken a national decision.

The decision to go ahead and manufacture the neutron device could not be taken to imply its stationing in any European country.

Signor Spadolini, the first post-war Italian Prime Minister who has not been a Christian Democrat (he is a Republican), did not find it difficult to speak out in support of his visitor.

The decision on stationing Cruise missiles in Sicily has given him more than enough domestic trouble; he would prefer not to add to it by an attitude that could be deemed too pro-American.

Above all, Italy sees a prospect of Rome and Bonn coming much closer together in the near future, given the end of Herr Schmidt's close links with M. Giscard d'Estaing.

Italian politicians have viewed with unmistakable jealousy since the days of Konrad Adenauer the special relationship between Germany and France.

They now see a possibility of Italy taking over the position vacated by France, especially as President Mitterrand has made approaches to her in London on arms issues.

With their keen sense of symbolism the Italians are now noting that it cannot be long before the Channel tunnel links Britain and France.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 14 September 1981)

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

The unacceptable consequences of a US withdrawal from Europe

Treaties fade, like roses and girls, was how General de Gaulle lyrically explained his decision to set up France's *force de frappe*.

He did not believe Europe would always be able to rely on the US nuclear shield.

He also felt the United States would be unlikely for all time to maintain an entire army in France's operational glacis, the Federal Republic of Germany.

Historical experience made this seem utterly improbable, which was why he did not expect Nato last. So France logically chose to go its own way in classical armaments, as in spheres.

Has reality disproved de Gaulle and his mistrust? The Americans continue to maintain a military presence in Europe and President Reagan has, indirectly, even offered to reinforce Europe's nuclear defences.

The neutron bomb is to be manufactured in view of European security requirements. So the North Atlantic treaty has not faded — not yet, at any rate.

America's Nato allies in Europe are making it difficult for the United States to fulfil its pact obligations.

In Scandinavia the Danes and Norwegians are toying with the idea of a nuclear-free zone in Northern Europe proposed by the Soviet Union.

Belgium, Holland and, some way behind, the Federal Republic of Germany, are coming up with one reason after another for stalling on the military side of the twofold Nato missile modernisation resolution.

In its rejection of the neutron bomb Bonn leads the field of Nato opponents of current US military policy initiatives.

What if the powers that be in Washington were to grow tired of backing a Europe that does not want to be defended by the United States?

Governments are not, of course, suddenly insulted if their decisions come in for criticism. Plain speaking is part and parcel of an alliance of democratic countries.

A military withdrawal from Europe by the United States would, moreover, be an event of historic importance; decisions of this kind are not taken overnight.

Yet Europe does seem to have forgotten there has always been a latent tendency in the United States to pull out of Europe.

For years it was hard work warding off the attacks of Senator Mike Mansfield, who called with astounding obstinacy for the withdrawal of several US divisions.

Bonn has had to pay many an extra dollar to ensure the continued presence of operational US units. Enormous amounts were spent on arms purchases in the United States just to keep US forces in Germany.

Considerable diplomatic skill had time and again to be deployed to ward off bids by US military pundits to have the forward defence line moved further back.

This all seems to have been consigned to oblivion. It is assumed a matter of course that the Reagan administration will not review its Atlantic policy.

The stage has even been reached at which US goodwill to reinforce forward defences is no longer honoured.

US Army C-in-C General Meyer has suggested transferring east of the Rhine the US division stationed in the Bad Kreuznach and Mannheim region.

The Bonn government has only half-heartedly taken up the suggestion, partly because of cost.

But the main reason is that it is not in keeping with the Ostpolitik envisaged by left-wing Social Democrats.

Yet the forward transfer of US brigades would not only boost the Nato front's operational mobility. It would also be a strategical element in stabilising the entire pact.

There could hardly be a more convincing proof of US determination to defend Europe from well to the fore.

It would show the Soviet Union that the US Seventh Army and its USAF support and their families are voluntarily prepared to enlarge on their role as, so to speak, hostages in Germany.

Washington could hardly demonstrate more clearly that it is linking destiny with that of the Germans. Yet squabbles are the result, not appreciation.

In terms of psychological strategy Europe lacks sensitivity in dealing with the United States.

Britain is an exception. France shows strategic understanding. Both more clearly than the Germans, the Belgians or the Dutch and the Norw... the consequences that would ... the United States were to stage a ... drawal.

Even a partial withdrawal of US ... such as the transfer of divisions ... force squadrons to Britain or Port... would would plunge the conven... defence system in Europe into ...

France's military border would ... at the Rhine, with the Federal Rep... of Germany no longer performing ... cis function.

Britain would forfeit its maritime ... cis in the North Atlantic, since ... would be indefensible after the ... of Nato's Central European front.

That would leave England and ... land wide open and in the forefront ... the Soviet line of aerial attack.

As for the Federal Republic of Germany and the Benelux countries, ... would be defenceless and as susceptible to political blackmail as Finland.

Is this just a macabre vision? It is ... in our power to prevent it from becoming stark reality.

Adelbert Weinstein

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 3 September ...)

Reagan's not a doctrine for export

Can ideologies be imported? The Left has never had difficulties with the import-export trade in doctrines, as the worldwide export of the French Enlightenment shows.

Admittedly, many ideas of the French Revolution were exported on the point of Napoleon's bayonets.

Then there is the march of Marxism from Germany via Russia and China to the Third World.

But can right-wing theories be multinationalised? To be more precise and to the point, have America's neo-conservatives after their striking November 1980 success at the polls a lesson to teach their counterparts in the Federal Republic of Germany?

Do US neo-conservatives have a secret that will prove equally effective for the German Christian Democrats, condemned to the Opposition benches in Bonn for the past 12 years?

The Konrad Adenauer Foundation, an organisation closely linked to the Christian Democrats, has just held a kind of bilateral market research gathering in Bonn.

Politicians, gurus and academics came in substantial numbers from both sides of the Atlantic.

The Germans were led by Helmut Kohl, Kurt Biedenkopf and Walther Leisler Kiep, the Americans by Richard Allen, President Reagan's security adviser, and neo-conservative standard-bearers such as Irving Kristol and Norman Podhoretz.

They failed to arrive at a joint concept. Despite ideological sympathies, conditions in the two countries vary too widely. Even intellectual soulmates are bound to admit that America and Europe have drifted apart in recent years.

Besides, mutual soundings soon showed that American neo-conservatives are not really conservative and German conservatives are not really neo.

By virtue of a startling paradox the US conservatives share a sense of being altogether revolutionary. After Mr Reagan's landslide victory at the polls they no longer saw themselves as a warlike sect.

Instead, they consider themselves historic victors over the moloch of the state that had been on the advance for the past 40 years.

What they want is not a realignment but a redistribution of power: from state to society, from institutions to individuals, from the Federal government to state governments.

And they want action, not peace and quiet, as one of their prophets put it. What German conservative could say that of either himself or his party?

Maybe America does have the edge over Europe in that tradition and revolution have never been irreconcilably opposed to each other in the New World.

The War of Independence was not a Jacobin uprising against Britain but a war over accrued rights.

The founding fathers built their New Jerusalem as a revolutionary structure, yet as the city of their ancestors.

And to this day their descendants feel sure such acts of creation can be repeated every four or eight years, be the banner that of President Kennedy's New Frontier, President Johnson's New Society or President Reagan's New Beginning.

As for the Germans, they have made failures of any revolutions they may have aimed at, yet in this century alone they have been through more revolutions than other nations have ever experienced.

There has been the transition from Wilhelminian Germany to Weimar and from Hitler to Bonn (and East Berlin). There have also been two currency "reforms" that have thoroughly shaken the social set-up.

In Germany too many systems have gone with the wind. Small wonder next to no-one (be they moderate left- on moderate right-wingers) wants to over-upset the current apple cart!

German politicians of a conservative persuasion, be they neo or palaeo, CDU or SPD, envisage change as meaning that almost everything remains the way it is.

They preach liberalism, but with a fair amount of benevolent intervention; the advocate the market economy, but ... cial free-market economy.

Above all, they must live with ... orical experiences that differ from ... of their fellow-conservatives across ... Atlantic.

In the wake of the second Thirty Years' War, lasting from 1914 to ... they (in keeping with most Germans and, indeed, with most Europeans) ... come to appreciate how happy they ... be in a corner backed by US safeguards.

That was why the Christian Democratic hosts of the Bonn gathering ... sponded with embarrassment ... jubilation to the international ... tionary sentiment of US neo-conservatives.

They were even less elated when ... guests set about not only singing ... praises of the now American nationalism but also encouraging the Germans ... show signs of greater national spirit.

Had the Americans forgotten ... direction German nationalism traditionally took? Both under Kaiser Wilhelm and in the Weimar Republic it ... against the West.

Neo-conservatism is thus not a ... selling export line. Like all varieties ... conservatism since the French Revolution it is not a universally saleable doctrine but a reaction, and a reaction ... strictly specific historic events and experiences.

Ronald Reagan's ideology is not ... export. America just happens to be different.

Josef Joffe

(Die Zeit, 11 September ...)

Continued from page 1

mament and arms control were to be equally balanced between East and West.

But this fresh sign to Moscow of US readiness to talk is worth noting at present because Mr Haig at the same time accused the Soviet Union and its allies of using poison gas in South-East Asia.

If these allegations were substantiated the Soviet Union would be shown to have breached one of the most longstanding arms control agreements.

Bodo Schulte

(Nordwest Zeitung, 14 September 1981)

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HOME AFFAIRS

...fluences holding coalition together prevail

...e SPD/FDP coalition has survived ...the internal wrangling over the ...'s financial arrangements for next ...

...t there are clear symptoms of an ...ble illness. The break up would al... have happened if either partner ...nted it: neither does — yet.

...e SPD is in the weaker position ...se it can only stay in power with ...lp of the FDP. The latter has the ...ative: joining the CDU/CSU, where ...ld be welcome.

...l that is the Liberals' trump card ...game against the SPD.

...is was clearly in evidence in the ...tic tug-of-war over social security ...cks.

...was not budgetary details but the ...ge of trend in social policy" as ...imed by Foreign Minister Hans-...ich Genscher and Economic Affairs ...ster Count Lambsdorff (both FDP) ...brought the coalition to the brink.

...e implementation of the Liberals' ...would have meant no more and no ...than the Social Democrats abandon... their creed and dismantling the wel... state.

Not even Chancellor Helmut Schmidt ...h his somewhat underdeveloped So...l Democratic heart could have agreed ...that.

The crack was exactly along the line ...here the FDP demanded the introduc... of "moratorium days" for the ...inued payment of wages in case of ...s. What the FDP considered neces... and possible was beyond the thres...s for the SPD.

...) to that point, the Free Democrats ...ailed on just about every issue: the ... of an employment programme was ...ped, cost cuts in the health system ... made at the expense of the pa...s rather than the pharmacists, ...th insurance companies and doctors, ... increases were shunted off to such ...ous sectors as tobacco, liquor and ...mpagne while child allowances for ... second and every subsequent child ... pared down.

...en SPD resistance to touching upon ...ployment benefits flagged in the ... of the FDP's unyielding stand.

...t the Social Democrats were not ...ready to give in completely, so the ... was shelved.

While top SPD politicians, headed by ...ert Wehner and Willy Brandt, tried ...make the cabinet decisions palatable ...their fellow party members by listing ... items on which the FDP was not ...mitted to prevail, the Free Democrats ...ked in the knowledge that they were ... tail that wagged the dog.

But there is another side to this coin: ... FDP will not be able to repeat the ...r, certainly not with the SPD.

The dissatisfaction among Social ...mocratic bodies ranging from the ...liamentary party all the way to SPD ...al chapters has reached its climax.

The grassroots feeling is that they are ... governing with the FDP but are being ...verned by it. They would shed no tear ...er a breakdown of the coalition even ... that meant manning the opposition ...nches for years to come.

But the SPD leadership sees it diffe...ntly. Government responsibility has a ...-fold importance for them: it means ...y can put into action at least some Social Democratic ideas; and it is their only stick with which to discipline unruly comrades who are determined to run their heads against the coalition wall on issues ranging from security to economic policy.

In fact, the SPD has even dug up the old spectre of a Kohl-Strauss government that would put the axe to the social security system.

And as if this were not enough, the conservatives would also mean an "about-face in our divided Germany's foreign and security policy." (Wehner).

The SPD thus still has reason to permit itself to be blackmailed by the Free Democrats.

But the Liberals had an opportunity during the budget tug-of-war to go beyond the point that marks the absolute limit for the SPD.

The Social Democrats were determined not to touch upon sick pay because that is the sort of measure that would have made the trade unions man the barricades. The Free Democrats backpedalled. This shows that:

- The FDP still prefers this coalition to a smoother one with the conservatives.
- The reason: the party believes that this is a more popular stance with the electorate.
- The coalition will not fall simply because the FDP sticks to its guns — as long as there is no major shift in electoral attitude.

As a result, it is not only Genscher who is prepared to continue the coalition until 1984.

Wehner's bogeyman, Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff, is another.

Though Lambsdorff seems more prepared to permit the coalition to founder on specific issues than does Genscher, who puts more stock by tactical moves on behalf of his party, the economic affairs minister knows that his star would be less brilliant in a Kohl-Genscher cabinet.

It is part of Genscher's tactics to prevent the impression that it was the Free Democrats who opted out of the coalition with the SPD because that would cause considerable turbulence in his own party should the contingency arise.

He was given a foretaste of this when his party's left wing threatened to withhold their loyalty from him should the Bonn coalition break up due to FDP. As Genscher sees it, it must be clearly visible for all that the responsibility for a break up rests solely with the SPD. But even this sort of tactics is sot watertight. For one thing, the The FDP is in danger of overestimating the extent to which the Social Democrats will permit themselves to be blackmailed, as was borne out with the sick pay issue. Moreover, the constant shelving of disputed issues and the papering over of cracks in the common policy could create a situation in which the SPD, for internal party reasons, will find itself in a vortex into which the Liberals could be drawn.

The Euromissile debate, which has long divided the SPD and still keeps simmering among FDP ranks despite the party resolution of last May, could easily prove the detonator. Therefore, a break would have to be made before this arises.

In any event, Genscher makes a point of cultivating the *Götterdämmerung* mood in Bonn. Regardless whether the coalition weathers the time until 1984 or whether the split comes soon, the FDP must at any time be in a position to switch from one partner to another and find the necessary party approval.

The tough horse trading over the budget served exactly this purpose. To think of the improbable as probable takes the wind out of the sales of the FDP left wing opposition to a coalition with the conservatives.

But as long as the coalition with the Social Democrats helps the FDP curry favour with the voters the conservatives might as well forget about any coalition offer to the Liberals.

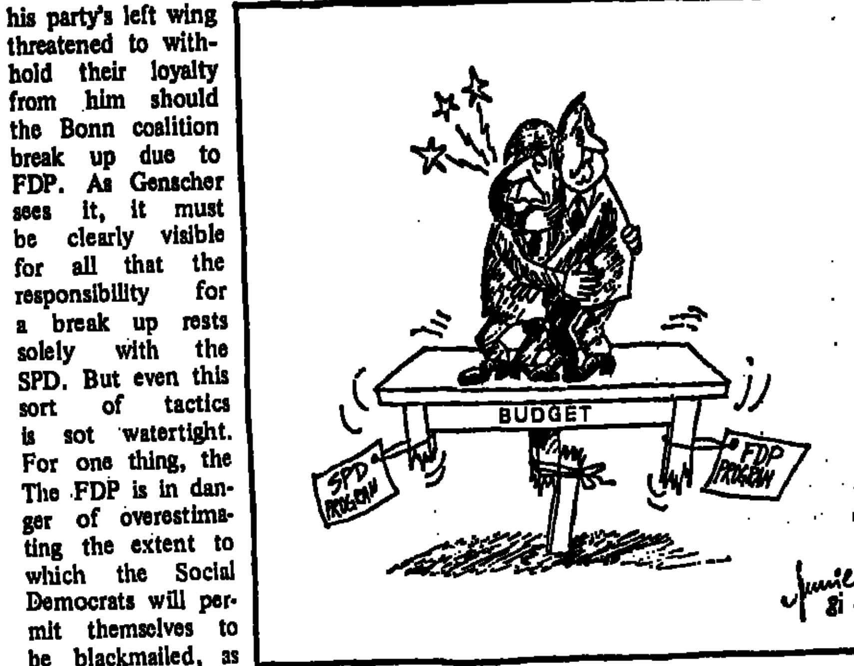
But super tactician Genscher could well have missed the most opportune moment to change horses and still be able to justify this with the party's liberal principles.

Walter Bajohr

(Rheinische Merkur/Christ und Welt, 11 September 1981)

BUDGET

(Cartoon: Candea/Rheinische Post)



(Cartoon: Mussil/Frankfurter Rundschau)

The Opposition assesses its own role

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

Criticism, control and alternatives are the key words CDU Floor Leader Helmut Kohl describes the way the opposition understands its function.

The alternative in this case is a DM12bn budgetary saving concept, the details of which are still kept under wraps by the conservatives.

Even so, the opposition has a tough stand with its economising proposals for the 1982 Bonn budget.

The coalition parties also believed that it would be easy to find a compromise; but the final outcome is known to all. In the final analysis, no definite agreement is in sight. The situation is similar where the CDU/CSU is concerned.

The response to the package presented by the CDU budgetary experts is reminiscent of bad examples from former days.

The conservatives' claim to being a populist party is a legacy to which it is hard to do justice. So far, they have come up with a great many opinions but no uniform stand.

The middle class and small and medium business seem to favour a free rather than a social market economy and are unwilling to stop short of pruning the social security laws just as they are unwilling to stop short of demanding that some public spending be turned over to the private sector.

And then there are the militant social affairs committees of the CDU which once more fear that they will become the butt as the party's social appendage.

In any event, the tone that prevails in the CDU grouping around Norbert Blüm indicates that the party, both in and out of parliament, will have to weather tough disputes before it can come up with a cohesive recipe.

Granted, it is not easy for the CDU and CSU to come up with an austerity concept that will bear their handwriting.

The Free Democrats — and this is borne out by their swift approval of the cabinet decisions — have every right to consider themselves the true conductors of the Bonn orchestra.

The conservatives now have to take

Continued on page 4

■ POLITICS

SPD dilemma is how to handle the peace movement

The Social Democrats' big problem is deciding what to do about the peace movement.

Deputy Bundestag Speaker Annemarie Renger, who belongs to the SPD's conservative wong, writes in the August issue of the Social Democratic monthly *Die neue Gesellschaft*: "Whether history repeats itself or not and whether people learn from it or not is a question almost as old as mankind.

"The various groupings that go under the misleading name 'peace movement' provide some variations on this theme when compared with the 'ban the bomb movement' in the second half of the 1950s (and its fate) and when related to the Social Democrats at the time for the purpose of drawing conclusions for today."

Despite the seemingly obvious parallel, Frau Renger says, the situation has changed because at that time the SPD and the German Trade Union Federation (DGB) not only backed the campaign but initiated it.

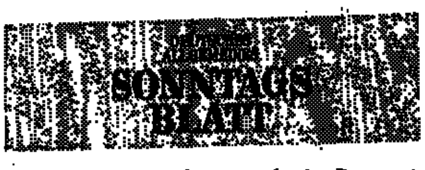
But then, when the Godesberg Programme developed the long-term strategy to bring about a change of power in Bonn, both SPD and DGB left the movement out in the cold.

But the party itself has meanwhile changed even more than the circumstances: not only because it left the Opposition benches to form a government and was thus much more subject to the exigencies of realities but also and above all because it fully adopted the very policy which it once (and for good reason) combated.

Thus the SPD of today is confronted with its own past when dealing with the peace movement which is in no way its own flesh and blood and which in fact does not depend on the party either.

Many SPD members among the party leadership and in government are trying to escape this painful reality. But the party itself must not shirk it lest it lose prestige and followers.

An attempt to cope with this deve-



lopment was made recently in Bonn at the peace forum summoned by Willy Brandt, welcomed by Peter Glotz, the new, ubiquitous, eloquent and sensitive general secretary and patiently moderated by journalist Theo Sommer.

The alphabetical seating order put proponents and opponents right next to each other: Apel next to Bahr and Bahro next to Bastian and Baudissin.

Egon Bahr, who now deals with the contradictions of security policy as cleverly as he once dealt with the imponderables of détente, bore the main burden of the 7-hour discussion.

His ten theses on security and détente policy bore witness to the highwire act the SPD (both party and government) has to perform it it is to uphold the two-track decision and at the same time win the 1984 election under the (self-devised) label of a "peace party".

Bahr advocated unity within Nato, the upholding of the Nato decision, the establishment of a military balance through negotiations and even the "zero solution".

But his explanations also made it clear that he thinks little of the chances of success due to the Soviet Union's implacable attitude and Washington's striving for supremacy.

Bahr saw no alternative to the Nato decision. But this does not mean that he wants to follow the decision blindly and without reservations as does the new state minister in the Foreign Office, Peter Corterier, who views the slightest trace of criticism as treason against the alliance and as anti-Americanism.

The analyst Bahr sees the Nato decision, which was made with reservations but is nevertheless a fact, as follows: "The alliance made the decision on 12 December 1979. The United States is bound by the decision and should it fail seriously to pursue its second part (negotiations with the Soviets) we would no longer be bound by our undertaking to permit the stationing of US missiles.

"We could abrogate this undertaking and the United States would be free to abandon serious negotiations. And without negotiations the Soviet Union could continue its arms build-up unchecked, as could the United States."

The logic behind this is fascinating and could even convince peace movement representatives.

But they see this as a "bead game" of which they want no part.

Their main argument is that arms limitation treaties like Salt I have proved ineffectual. They make it quite clear that they can only laugh at the contention that should negotiations fail we ... continue the arms build-up as a ... achieving disarmament.

Peace movement spokesmen of ... political and church groupings ... that the time for unilateral disarm... had come. As they see it, the Fe... Republic of Germany, which has ... ed from the ashes of a war the Ge... started and lost, must make a sta... for no other reason than for reasons ... vival.

The theory that the deterrent ... functions is no longer accepted by ... movement. In fact, they consider ... has never been proved whether ... deterrent ideas was ever effective ... even protagonists of the Nato de... concede that this is so.

For Egon Bahr, who was i... said to be the opposition within ... vernment party, the alternative ... Nato decision was unacceptable.

But even so, he tried to b... bridge, clearly admitting his own ... "It is possible that the SPD and ... peace movement have more in com... that they themselves are aware of ... ance demands that the peace mo... be given the right to fix its stand...

And exactly this is what the ... movement did – in its own mo... vincing way. There was little co... ground except for fear which, as ... Glotz put it, was evident on both ... The proponents of the Nato decisi... said, fear Soviet aggression and the ... ponents fear nuclear destruction.

He failed to mention the ... the SPD's fear of losin prestige ... followers in the poker game ove... Nato modernisation decision.

Bernd C. Hes...

(Deutsche Allgemeine Sonntagsblatt, 6 Septemb...)

Huge protest march is planned

More than 100,000 people are expected to take part in a peace movement march in Bonn next month.

FDP's 86-year-old William Borm intends sending out 1,500 letters to persuade people to join the protest, on October 10.

According to the Young Socialists the demonstration will be the biggest ever in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The peace movement is gaining strength in this country. It has been given a boost by President Reagan's decision to go ahead with the production of the neutron bomb.

SPD national executive member Erhard Eppler put it quite bluntly: "The next six months will see an enormous strengthening and growth of the peace movement and the SPD will feel it more than any other party."

The movement is making an effort to achieve a political breakthrough, says a spokesman of the church initiative *Aktion Sühnezeichen*, one of the two organisers of the demonstration against the nuclear threat scheduled in Bonn for 10 October.

The march is being backed by the Greens (environmentalists), the Work Group of Social Democratic Women, the Young Socialists, the Young Democrats, the German Communist Party, many citizens' initiatives plus socialist, church and trade union groups and even one chapter of the *Junge Union* (the young members branch of the CDU).

Rev. Heinrich Albertz, Erhard Eppler, IG Metall national committeeman Georg Benz and futurologist Robert Jungk will address the rally.

These are the most important peace initiatives in Germany:

- The Krefeld Appeal which has been signed by about 1.2 million people of all political affiliations. The appeal of "workers, Bundeswehr officers, Christians, artists, scientists and publicists" is directed against Western medium-range nuclear missiles.

  It was initiated on 16 November 1980 by 1,000 people at a congress and is, according to the Bonn government, one-sidedly anti-Western, serving the aims of the pro-Soviet German Communist Party (DKP).

  As a result, SPD and the Trade Union Federation (DGB) advised their members not to sign the appeal. But even so, the movement is supported by many Social Democrats, among them Bonn MP Klaus Thüsing. It also has the backing of some trade unionists.
- The Russell Peace Foundation appeal, which calls for a non-nuclear zone extending from Portugal to Poland, is backed by groups throughout Europe.
- The DGB appeal for peace through disarmament, which is already seen as a response by trade unions and political parties to the ever more heated peace discussion that was initiated by the leftists. The target here is two million signatures to prove that the trade unions are still the biggest peace movement.
- Many church organisations and initiatives have joined the peace movement, including the Catholic *Pax Christi* which demands a freezing of arms at the level of 1980. More than 15,000 practising Protestants signed the appeal Living without Arms.
- The Datteln movement Citizens in Peace and Feodom defends the ... Nato decision as a move to ... peace and has thus adopted the ... of the government and most of ... Bundestag.

  The movement is intended as a ... movement to the Krefeld Appeal ... resolution which was passed at the ... of July to mobilise the silent ma... had been signed by more than 15,0... mid-August, among them MPs and ... mayors of all political parties.
- The Heidelborg Appeal is an ... tiative by Social Democratic Bund... MPs who demand that the two ... powers get together at the barg... table. They also demand that the ... modernisation decision be susp... The movement is backed by ... Kurt Scharf and Professor Walter ...

  The Bielefeld Declaration is an ... by left wing Social Democrats against ... Nato decision. According to the ... (Young Socialists) it has meanwhile ... signed by several thousand SPD of... and rank and file.
- State chapters of the SPD in ... ern Germany are collecting sign... against the production of the ... device Bremen's Mayor Hans Ko... nick was among the first to sign.

The CSU now intends to launch a ... "political offensive" on the issue of ... modernisation and pacificism, "a ... mobilisation on all planes," as CSU ... retary-General Edmund Stoiber puts ...

The CSU wants to put forward ... ments to win over those of the ... who can be taken seriously.

In July, the CDU passed a resol... entitled "For Peace and Freed... which resolution pillories Soviet ag... sion and warns of a dangerous co... between Christians, pacifists and ... ists.

Laszlo Trankov...

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 28 Augu...)

Continued from page 3

up positions which will reasonably assure them of the approval of both liberal and conservative voters.

This can be done, but it is doubtful whether the CDU/CSU's all-out charge at the draft budget is called for.

So far, the opposition has pinned its hopes on a breakup of the Bonn coalition. It has played for time and tried to build up an image as the guardian of citizens' interests — a guardian standing poised and prepared to shoulder government responsibility at any given moment.

Has this hope been misplaced? The jarring notes in connection with the alternative austerity budget and the seemingly irreconcilable contrast between sharp criticism on individual issues and ultimate decision gives rise to scepticism.

We won't know whether the opposition has missed a golden opportunity or whether it is about to come up with a shining example of quick decisions until we are given an opportunity to compare the conservative budget proposals with those of the government.

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 9 September 1981)

■ POLITICAL BOOKS

Forces that shaped the Russian mentality

...thar Ruehl's *Russlands Weg zur Weltmacht* (Russia's Path to World Power) begins with a most thought-provoking comment.

...rope, writes journalist Ruehl, who ...rently assistant spokesman for the ... government, has never paid any ...tion to what went on in its east.

This was certainly the case in the ...dle Ages, when the Mongols brought ... subject Slavs not only under their ... but also forced them into isolation.

The two centuries of alien Asian do...tion can scarcely be overestimated ... mark they made on the character ... political system of the Russian people.

...e Russian princes had to take orders ... their knees from the Tartars; they ...ed on this humiliation to their own ...les.

...ish subordination was called for, ... outward prostration was accom...ed by intellectual stagnation, with ... Tartar yoke contrubuting towards ...ia's economic and cultural backwardness.

...paration from the West may well ... weighed even more heavily. Russia ... no idea what was going on in the ... of Europe either.

Alienation and mutual mistrust were ... result, and they have not been overcome to this very day.

The Russian rulers had looked to Constantinople ever since Vladimir, ...ce of Kiev, had adopted the Greek Orthodox faith and married a Byzantine princess, Anna.

Then came the time when Byzantium, ...ard pressed by the Turkish advance, ...ught the aid of the Pope. Russia was ...traged and filled with hatred by this union with the Latin heretics.

For Orthodox Russians the fall of the ...nd Rome was God's punishment for ...rting from the true faith. Moscow, ... new centre of Russia, increasingly ... itself to be the heir to the Byzantine ...pire.

Its rulers claimed to be defenders of ... true faith, and not only in Russia. ...n III assumed the Byzantine coat of ...s, the double-headed eagle.

It was to remain the emblem of Tsarist Russia until the end. The idea of Moscow as the Third Rome was born.

The double-headed eagle adorns the ...er of Ruehl's book on Russia's pro...ss to world power. The Tsarist em... is linked with the Soviet hammer ... sickle above the globe.

This is to illustrate the continuity of ...rist and Soviet policy the author is at ...s to outline.

Tsar is a title derived from the Greek ...ar and the Latin caesar. Ivan IV, ...wn in the West as Ivan the Terrible, ... the first crowned Tsar.

He was also the first to advance ...ond conventional Russian borders. To ... east he conquered Tartar land, only ...rficially concerned to safeguard his ...tiers.

What attracted him were the untouched natural resources east of the Volga.

To the west Ivan aimed to extend his ...fluence to the Baltic coast, where the ...man knights templar had once held ...y. But Poland and Sweden kept him ...way.

More than 100 years later Peter the ...at successfully reached the Baltic, ...ile Catherine the Great later extended ...er's empire south to the Black Sea ...st and further west to the point ...ere Prussia, Russia and Austria shared the partition of Poland.

Ruehl outlines this process at length, ...ying on sources of varying quality. He ...s about his work enthusiastically but ...dently has difficulty in assessing his ...rce material.

The outcome is an overextensive set of footnotes that cannot fail to confuse a reader keen to find his way around this complex subject.

Negligence on details seems to be hard to banish entirely from books on Russia. The Tsarevna is a daughter of the Tsar and not, as Ruehl makes out, the Tsarina.

Ouspenski cathedrals are churches dedicated to the Ascension of Mary, not her death. In the Kremlin in Moscow there is an arsenal, not a palace of arms. And so on.

In Katyn 4,143 NKVD victims were exhumed, not about 30,000. Ruehl is here referring to the total number of Polish officers whose whereabouts were unknown.

On military matters Ruehl, who covered Nato as a journalist and is now spokesman for the Bonn government, is in his element.

Russian conquests have invariably been accompanied by missionary zeal. One needs only to read Dostoyevsky's jubilation about the Russian victory in Turkestan to appreciate this fact.

Ruehl would, however, agree that Soviet Communists, as ideocrats, rule out total war as a means of making world revolutionary dreams come true.

To dominate the situation they nonetheless set great store by demonstrating military might as a means of deterring their opponents from engaging in counter-revolutionary activities.

This brings us to the current debate on the Soviet desire for expansion. For 400 years, Ruehl recapitulates, Tsarist Russia sought to expand beyond its own borders.

Power was the objective, not just material gain. That was what distinguished the Tsars from other rulers of their day. The Soviet Union then retained the Tsarist heritage and maintained it as well as it was able. World revolution did not come about, but did Stalin seriously seek it?

Did Khrushchev want to conquer the world? Where do Mr Brezhnev's ambitions lie, over and above Afghanistan?

Ruehl does not venture far in his attempt to answer these questions. While allowing for intellectual continuity between Russia old and new, he says there is a kind of grey zone.

Neither in the past nor in the present can one clearly determine the borderline between Russian desire for conquest and convenient opportunity or the obligation to act, between a deliberate advance and a defensive strategy.

This is indeed usually overlooked in assessments of Russian policy. Even Peter the Great, whom Karl Marx saw as being unbounden in his striving for power, had no master plan for military expansion.

Unmethodically he allowed himself to be pushed along by developments as he sought to lead Russia from backwardness to greatness and equal rights with other European powers.

Stalin, for that matter, did not head for the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean of his own accord, as Ruehl oversimplifies the situation.

It was Hitler who, taking the British Empire apart at the seams, sought to encourage his Soviet pact partner to concentrate on this theatre rather than on Europe.

Never, at any time, has there been any such thing as a Russian *Lebensraum* philosophy.

A further drawback is that Ruehl tends too much to measures Russian policy by Western yardsticks. He mends to see the Kremlin and the politbureau as a party to manoeuvres. In so doing he gets the emphasis wrong.

China, for instance, holds pride of place in Soviet security thinking today. America played the China card long before Afghanistan in its bid to contain Soviet international influence.

A policy of strength in Asia (US arms for China, say,) will continue not to induce the Russians to scale down their objectives in the Horn of Africa, on Vietnam or on Cambodia.

This is barely noted by Ruehl. Maybe, it seems reasonable to surmise, developments in Afghanistan would have taken a different course of there had still been a dialogue between the superpowers that was worthy of the name.

Ruehl is keen on strategic planning of another kind. Why, he wonders, are the Russians unable to intervene militarily in the Middle East?

Might Khrushchev's climb-down over Cuba not have been a convenient opportunity to oust Castro's regime?

Considerations such as these are of no use to the reader who would like to arrive at an orientation for the future. Thus Ruehl's conclusion is correspondingly inadequate.

Soviet order inside and outside the USSR remains fragile and incomplete, which is why, he says, Soviet world power is incomplete.

Yet it remains enough to allow "the colossus to maintain power for a longer period without a perspective."

Reinbold Neumann-Hoditz

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 5 September 1981)

Lothar Ruehl: *Russlands Weg zur Weltmacht* (Russia's Path to World Power), Econ Verlag, Düsseldorf and Vienna 1981, 623 pp. with maps and photos, DM64.-.

Petrification of the revolution

East Bloc watchers have for years wondered whether and to what extent policies are pursued for ideological reasons to the east of the Elbe.

Alternatively, are ideological tenets today no more than mere veils to cover up for *realpolitik* and power politics?

Peter Bender in *Das Ende des ideologischen Zeitalters* (The End of the Ideological Age) expresses a clear viewpoint.

He bases his views largely on developments and moves in the past, but he also includes recent events in Afghanistan and Poland, making his work *praxis*-orientated and far removed from historical theory.

"The political East," he says, "has forfeited what once distinguished it from the rest of the world: its ideology. It no longer motivates; it merely legitimates. Revolutionary belief has been petrified into official dogma."

In the West this may be rated a rash theory, but in the East it has been borne out by leading politicians as a reality.

Bender quotes high-ranking Communist officials who no longer deny that revolutionary impetus has not only been lost in the economic sector in Eastern Europe.

Developments in most spheres of life have, they concede, slowed down to the extent of, in some cases, stagnation.

Bender, born in Berlin in 1923, has been Berlin correspondent for *Westdeutscher Rundfunk*, Cologne, for more than a decade and is well-known as a critical interpreter of Bonn Ostpolitik.

He also notes that the East Bloc's economic system (a truism this) can only be kept alive by practitioners correcting the Plan.

He concludes that "an economic system which only functions when it is riddled has proved a failure."

People in the GDR refer more or less openly to the failure of Marxism-Leninism in their country, given that the Marxist-Leninist regime (as it claims to be) oppresses the working class, in contrast with the theory.

Besides, in contrast to the ideological tenets, the superiority of the Western system has long been a proven fact.

Bender goes even further. Analysing the behaviour of leaders in East and West, he concludes:

"Since the 70s there has not been a Party leader in Eastern Europe whose activities have been fundamentally motivated by ideological considerations."

For years, as he puts it, what is politically necessary has been justified after the event by quotations from Lenin.

Bender's inferences from this gradual decline of the East Bloc ideology into insignificance do not appear accurate and convincing to quite the same extent.

He refers to constructions of thought rather than forecasts. He says the ideological division of the world no longer holds good.

Yet this does not warrent overestimating Soviet readiness to undertake necessary and far-reaching compromises. The departure from dogma in the Kremlin has not yet been total.

Bender admits as much when he says that "in most Communist leadership all considerations are cast to the wind it comes to political survival."

He fails to dispel misgivings that Moscow plans to use its medium-range missiles as an instrument of blackmail.

He proposes a gradual transition to a European Europe that will eventually take on the role of "no longer being a theatre for suspicious, hostile delimitation of interests between Americans and Russians but instead of becoming a bridge between them."

In 1981 this proposal must be said to be somewhere between utopia and hope, but there can be no gainsaying the truth of his assertion that not only Germany but also Europe is divided.

Once this is realised, he says, the rigid rivalry between the superpowers will be seen to necesitate solidarity among Europeans beyond borders as an absolute essential.

Axel Ostrowski

(Kieler Nachrichten, 9 September 1981)

Peter Bender: *Das Ende des ideologischen Zeitalters – Die Europäisierung Europas* (The End of the Ideological Age – The Europeanisation of Europe), Verlag Severin und Siedler, Berlin, 272 pp., DM32.-.

■ TRADE

Opec, EEC, crucial to North-South equation

The 22 nations taking part in next month's North-South summit in Mexico will enter the talks with more modest ambitions than originally envisaged.

This is because the foreign ministers' meeting which laid the groundwork decided that there would be no firm agenda.

So the summit will be little more than an exchange of ideas from a mixed and incomplete selection of countries.

However, it is thought that this will still be better than a genuine world summit which would run the risk of getting bogged down in semantics.

That the summit is to take place at all is largely due to the efforts of Willy Brandt, who was chairman of the North-South Commission; Austria's Chancellor, Bruno Kreisky; and Mexico's President, José Lopez Portillo.

They have spent 18 months organising the framework.

The East Bloc will be conspicuously absent because Moscow turned down the invitation — after some hesitation.

Of the 22 nations, eight are industrialised (three EEC): Austria, Britain, France, Japan, Sweden, the United States, Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Five are members of Opec: Algeria, Mexico, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

The balance comprise Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Guyana, India, Ivory Coast, the Philippines, Tanzania and Yugoslavia.

Opec and the EEC are the two pivotal points of the North-South dialogue. In fact, it was the success of the oil-producing developing countries in the Opec cartel in 1973/74, when they gained the upper hand over the all-powerful industrial nations that brought about the North-South dialogue in 1974.

At the time, the developing nations demanded in the UN that a New International Economic Order be drafted in which the industrial nations would no longer dictate commodity prices, using demand as a power instrument.

One of the main Third World demands since 1974 has been the establishment of an international fund (Stabex) to stabilise commodity prices. These have a major effect on the economic position and the standard of living of many, though far from all, developing countries.

Rather similar to that of the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy, Stabex funds were to be used to stockpile raw materials in times of low demand.

International agreement on the establishment of such a fund was reached in 1980. But the industrial countries prevailed inasmuch as it was agreed that for the 20 or so raw materials included in the system international agreements between buyer and supplier countries would have to be negotiated.

The EEC's key role in the North-South dialogue is fourfold. It rests on the 1973 Lomé Convention (originally based on the association agreements with the former colonies of the initial EEC countries and later extended to include almost all developing nations of the Pacific, Black Africa and the Caribbean) which for the first time provided for a stabilisation fund for the raw materials export earnings of the ACP countries coupled with development aid and sweeping trade preferences.

The EEC also provides financial aid and trade preferences for Mediterranean countries ranging from Morocco to Jordan.

This comprehensive network of agreements (which even include provisions on investment protection and regular conferences for the resolution of conflicts) also encompasses such oil-producing countries as Nigeria and Algeria but the emphasis is on the 33 least developed countries (LDCs).

Forty per cent of the exports of these LDCs goes to the EEC, which also provides 35 per cent of their imports and 50 per cent of their development aid.

Apart from firm agreements, trade preferences and development aid, the importance of this EEC policy lies in its being unencumbered by ideology.

Ethiopia is treated like any other Lomé partner, despite its close ties with the Soviet Union. In other words, it receives the same treatment as pro-Western Senegal.

It is in keeping with this policy that changes of regime (as happened in Chad, Somalia and some other countries) therefore in no way affect the position of the nation concerned.

US President Ronald Reagan now envisages a similar model for the Caribbean countries (almost all of which are part of the Lomé Convention).

But if this were to be realised be would have to depart from his principle of differentiating between "good" (pro-Western) and "evil" (pro-Eastern) developing countries.

The very fact, however, that Washington is contemplating such a move and that Japan recently concluded a cooperation agreement with South Korea along the lines of the EEC Mediterranean agreement bears witness to the pressure that emanates from the EEC on the other major industrial powers.

Japan, the Community's powerful industrial competitor, has long evaded providing development aid — as opposed to poor China, whose development aid, though small in terms of money, has gained it considerable influence at Moscow's expense, especially in Africa.

It is doubtful whether the East Bloc will be able to stay aloof from the North-South dialogue in the long run.

Its non-military development aid lags far behind the aid provided by the democratic countries of Europe and one-sidedly favours the socalled socialist developing countries.

Moscow's long hesitation before turning down the invitation to the Cancun summit seems to indicate that the Kremlin leaders are having second thoughts.

But there is yet another reason for the EEC's key role. Some EEC governments, above all Bonn, were originally opposed to Third World demands for a New International Economic Order and were not prepared to meet them even a small part of the way.

They long underestimated the cohesion of the developing countries and the unity that existed between the rich Opec nations and the poor LDCs. They also underestimated the solidarity between Lomé partners, whose needs were satisfied, and the other Third World countries.

It was above all former Economic Affairs Minister Hans Friderichs and his successor and fellow Free Democrat Count Lambsdorff who never tired of telling international conferences that market economy was the only salvation for the Third World.

The same applies to Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who took a long time to learn.

Erich Hauser

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 9 September 1981)

Well-oiled EFTA wheels keep order book pages turning

There is contrast between the disputes within the European Community and the EEC's close and smooth relations with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland.

Whatever problems do arise in the Community's ties with EFTA are always settled quietly and behind the scenes through diplomatic channels.

The Committee of EEC Ambassadors has said in its latest annual report that the Community's free trade agreement with the EFTA countries "functioned to the full satisfaction of both sides."

According to the report, 60 per cent of EFTA foreign trade is accounted for by the EEC. EFTA, on the other hand, accounts for 25 per cent of the Community's foreign trade (exports and imports).

The 1972 free trade agreements that were made between EFTA and the EEC when Britain and Denmark left EFTA and joined the Community were instrumental in this positive development that was marked by the intensification of trade relations through bilateral tariff reductions for industrial goods.

Since the beginning of this year, when Greece joined the Community, Athens and the EFTA have been reducing tariffs gradually.

The free trade agreements for industrial goods have meanwhile been augmented to include agricultural products.

There have been agreements with Austria for quality wines and cheese. Vienna has reserved the right to supply the EEC with mutton and goat meat by agreeing to voluntary self-restrictions after the EEC market system came into effect.

Agreements mutually to open markets for processed foods, animal feed, cheese, powdered milk and fruit have been concluded with Switzerland. Similar agreements have been signed with the Scandinavia EFTA countries for fish products and mutual fishing rights (though the latter does not apply to Iceland).

Due to the steel crisis in the Community, the steel-producing EFTA countries have agreed to voluntary export restrictions.

In the field of scientific and technological cooperation there are the COST project providing for joint financing.

Switzerland has joined the EEC information computer network (Euronet).

Sweden and Finland are now negotiating membership of Euronet, and Austria is also said to be interested.

There is a regular information exchange on environmental protection

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Club-of-three idea gets mixed reactio[n]

There has been a mixed reactio[n to] suggestions that the USA, J[apan] and the EEC hold regular trade con[sul]tations.

The idea is not new, but at the [eco]nomic summit in Ottawa in July, i[t was] revived.

Now, Washington's roving trade [am]bassador, Bill Brock, has already [sent] invitations for a session to discu[ss the] idea in New York on October 1[...].

Mr Brock met with some appro[val in] Tokyo, but the Europeans are [...] guarded.

Main argument against is th[at it] would carry connotations of a s[...] club.

The objective is quite clear whe[re] Americans are concerned. The tri[o] USA-Japan-EEC is the hub of w[orld] trade, accounting for the lion's sha[re of] international trade in industrial goo[ds].

The volume of trade and its sig[nifi]cance for the individual national [eco]nomies naturally makes for interdep[end]ence. The problems of the one mus[t au]tomatically affect the others as well.

Right now, Americans and Europ[eans] have one common problem: Ja[pan's] aggressive export policy on the one h[and] and, on the other, its sealing-off o[f its] own market to prevent imports.

This has resulted in high trade d[efi]cits with Japan. (America reached a [re]cord monthly deficit of $1.35bn in J[...]

According to official figures, T[okyo] expects a trade surplus of $8bn for [...] 1981 (which ends on 31 March [...] Private estimates speak of $22bn.

These imbalances, together with [the] fact that the United States can [be] likened to a developing country ov[er] trade with Japan (America supplies fo[od] and raw materials and buys indus[trial] goods), have bolstered demands for p[ro]tectionist measures.

Washington has already success[fully] prevailed on Japan to impose sel[f-re]strictions for its auto exports to [the] USA. But since this has led to app[re]hension in Europe, Washington fe[els] that the time has come to hold the [en]visaged tripartite consultations.

But the response has been luke[warm]. Japan's Industries Minister Tanaka [has] agreed in principle without setting [a] date.

Although the Japanese fear that [they] will be treated as scapegoats in such [...] they prefer to play for time rather t[han] irk the Americans by putting up [...]tance.

Though a number of Eurocrats [ap]prove of the US initiative, the g[eneral] attitude in Brussels is marked by [res]traint because consultations with J[apan] and the United States already exist [...] in the framework of Gatt, where [...] are in progress on a bilateral and m[ulti]lateral basis.

Tripartite consultations, insider[s say,] would not only add to the confusio[n...] they would also smack of a "super[...]" that must make outsiders mistrustful.

Canada, for example, is bound [...] miffed about its exclusion [...] in view of the fact that its pro[blems] with Japan are the same as th[ose that] plague Europe and the USA.

Asks a European trade expert: [...] are we to draw the line? [...] sounds more attractive than it [...]

Jens [...]

(Handelsblatt, 4 Septembe[r 1981])

[B]ERLIN RADIO SHOW

Stereo sound on TV full of possibilities, but . . .

[Stere]ophonic sound in television is [the] most important novelty shown at [Ber]lin *Funkausstellung* since the in[troduc]tion of colour TV in 1967, says [...]de.

[...] it remains to be seen whether [...] will be enchanted enough by the [...]tion to warrant the trade's opti[mism].

[Stere]ophonic sound in television is [...] to add a new dimension to such [program]mes as operas or concerts.

[The] German approach to stereo TV [opens] up new horizons: the viewer can [choose] between the left and the right [sound]track and listen to either the for[eign-]language sound track of non-Ger[man] movies on the one loudspeaker or [the du]bbed version on the other.

[An]other example: newscasts can be [broad]cast and listened to in German on [o]ne speaker and for example, Turk[ish] on the other.

[Bu]t while colour TV has the market, [stere]o and multi-soundtrack TV are like[ly t]o remain the exception rather than [the ru]le.

[On]e reason is that current sets can be [...] adapted.

[In] addition, the two major broadcasting systems, ARD and ZDF, have made a few programmes in stereo to familiarise the public with it, but they are unlikely to broadcast these programmes as a matter of routine.

Also the technical facilities have not yet been provided by the postal authority, and so far only about two-thirds of the TV towers are equipped to relay the programmes.

Stereo TV will therefore gain ground very gradually as today's sets become obsolete and have to be replaced.

However, the introduction of stereo is bound to be generally welcomed. The sound in TV has up to now been neglected in favour of the picture.

Detractors could, of course, say that if stereo TV is the highlight of this year's *Funkausstellung* then the show is marked by few innovations.

But such criticism would fall short of doing justice to the wide range of technical novelties presented by over 300 exhibitors, more than half of them foreign.

True, this year's show has not come up with any major inventions and technological breakthroughs (there is hardly anything left to invent in this field), but it shows a clear trend towards microelectronics and the mass production of a wide range of goods extending from large screen video projectors all the way to mini pocket radios — and all this in a greatly improved quality.

Take portable radios. With or without cassette recorders, mono or stereo, designed to receive regional or global broadcasts — there is something for everybody at the show.

What is new is the fact that these sets provide stereo sound with built-in speakers without being as big as a trunk. A technical trick has enabled manufacturers to provide first-class stereophonic sound despite the fact that the speakers are so close together.

These small portable sets now have high fidelity and by the same token stationary hi-fi sets at home can now take up the minimum of space. In the next couple of years, miniaturisation will progress to the point where there will hardly be any difference in size between a portable and stationary set.

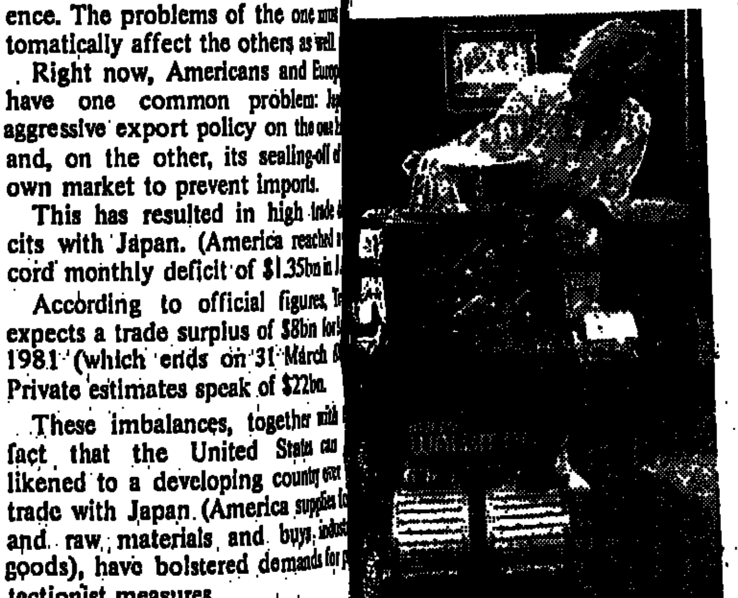
And people who cannot cope with the many dials, levers and buttons in which hi-fi sets usually abound will be able to operate their sets by twiddling a single button and so switching from hi-fi to stereo or cassette or record.

And for those who fear that by pushing or twiddling this single button they could still do something wrong there is the hi-fi set that responds to the spoken word.

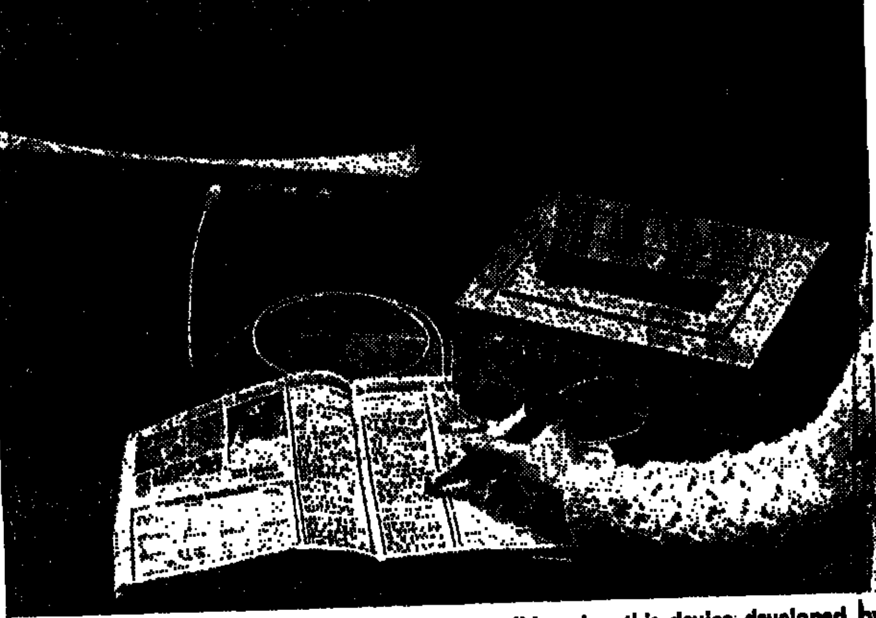
This has been achieved by a small computer that reacts to such commands as "on", "off", "louder", "softer", "FM" or "cassette".

(Mannheimer Morgen, 4 September 1981)

Mannheimer MORGEN



[A] robot accompanies the visitor [throu]gh the show and enables him to hear [selec]tions of music. (Photo: dpa)



Pre-programming a video-recorder is now possible using this device developed by Blaupunkt involving special TV programme pages and pen with electronic beam. (Photo: Walter Beier)

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[...] Switzerland, Sweden, Norway and [Fin]land. Similar provisions exist on con[sume]r protection with Sweden and [Nor]way; on development aid with Aus[tria,] Sweden and Norway; on energy [with] Norway (oil and natural gas); on [indu]strial policy with Austria and Swe[den] (steel and paper).

[C]ooperation in the transport sector is [a sp]ecial chapter. Switzerland and Aus[tria] have always been of particular interest to the EEC because of their function [as tr]ansit countries for traffic between [Ger]many and Italy.

[N]egotiations are now in progress on a [finan]cial participation by the EEC in [the] construction of the Austria Innkreis[...]m autobahn.

[B]ut Brussels expects Vienna to reduce [r]oad tolls for commercial vehicles.

Erich Hauser

([Fr]ankfurter Rundschau, 2 September 1981)

New sets ready but not the telecasters

German firms have stolen a march on their competitors from the Far East in developing television sets that can receive sound in stereo.

But the national television and radio network, ARD, does not intend to take advantage of this immediately.

It will be 1984 before stereo TV is introduced.

However, viewers are being given a foretaste at the 33rd *Funkausstellung* in Berlin, where all the German makers are showing their stereo TV sets.

Three hundred and 32 companies from 27 countries are represented in 23 exhibition halls.

Entertainment electronics accounted for sales worth DM12bn last year.

In the first eight months of this year, the figure had only reached DM6bn, so a boost is needed in the final four months if last year's figure is to be reached, as had been predicted.

The TV set is still the best seller in the industry. And once more at this year's show, TV is the central attraction.

Stereo TV sales are expected to rise only slowly (they will retail at between DM200 and DM500 more than conventional sets) and the main sales hopes rest with video recorders.

Here, the show has come up with some innovations such as easier handling through built-in microprocessors and better programming facilities.

The struggle for market shares between the three competing systems (VHS, Beta and Video 2000) is in full swing.

Weapons in the battle are technical arguments and market forecasts, but not prices.

The appreciation of the dollar and technical development are taking their toll. Thus, for instance, Philips' development cost for its Video 2000 was about DM500m — money that still has to be earned through sales.

And next year the system will be getting competition from its own company through the video record that will use a laser beam as a pickup.

In the audio sector (hi-fi, radios, records, tapes and cassettes) which accounts for more than 50 per cent of sales there are some genuine novelties on show in Berlin; but they are not yet for sale.

Among these novelties is the new CD disc, which is to be sold to the public starting from the end of next year.

The disc, with its diameter of about four inches, plays for 60 minutes and its sound quality is excellent. In addition, it is tough enough to be handled by children.

Since the new disc uses a laser sound pickup, its life expectancy is unlimited.

The disc was originally invented by Philips and then developed for mass production in a cooperation deal with Sony (Japan).

But since Sony (which anticipates sales worth DM700m in Germany alone) is not the only Japanese company interested in the new disc — the electronics giant Matsushita with its brand names Technics, Panasonic and National also wants to adopt the CD system — the new disc stands a good chance of acquiring standard status internationally.

There is a trend that makes the line separating audio and video systems indistinguishable, and this could prove important in the long run.

Some companies offer audio-video centres in which the screen only has the function of a monitor. The TV part is separate, as is the sound part.

This means that TV and video recorder can be coupled with a hi-fi system. The price tag for such centres is in excess of DM10,000. But even so, the makers expect healthy sales.

The chairman of the Electronics Association said in Berlin that prospects were excellent. He pointed out that the entertainment electronics market, whose annual sales in the 1960s had stagnated at about DM2.5bn, experienced a sales explosion when new colour TV sets and cassettes hit the market in the 1970s and sales quadrupled.

The industry now pins its hopes on the video record, the CD disc and, perhaps, the video camera.

The fact that these novelties were shown in Berlin but not yet offered for sale makes this year's *Funkausstellung* a transition show.

Michael Hamm[...]

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 4 September 1981)

RESEARCH

Computers improve daily weather forecasts



Weather forecasting has been improved by the use of computers and meteorological satellites.

Forecast users can link up with a computer network which provides continually updated forecasts.

This was how delays and inaccuracies in radio and TV forecasts were being eliminated, according to an American delegate at a meteorologists' conference in Hamburg last month.

Nearly 700 meteorologists from 37 countries met for a fortnight.

Main subjects were long-term weather forecasts and climate trends.

What features does the climate consist of? How does it change? How does one work out climate models given the many data available nowadays?

The congress was attended mainly by meteorologists from Western Europe and America, but there were also weather men from the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc, from Arab and Afro-Asian countries and even China.

By international standards German experts have nothing to be ashamed of either. The Scientific Research Association has concentrated project work in this sector.

Climate models, the interaction between oceans and the atmosphere and atmospheric physics are being probed at the Max Planck Meteorological Institute in Hamburg.

These were subjects rated particularly important at the Hamburg congress. Experts discussed, for instance, traces of gas and other substances in the atmosphere.

How exactly could one determine the origin and movements of minute quantities of gas and suspended particles in the atmosphere?

They often cause atmospheric pollution of the environment, but their influence on climate developments is also under investigation over and above immediate interest in the consequences of pollution.

Special attention is given to changes in the ozone layer by spray can gas and air movements in the upper atmosphere and to the increasing quantity of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Weather men have lately devoted increasing attention to the oceans. Resistance by the surface waters of the oceans is regarded as a crucial factor in the partial intake of carbon dioxide into the water of the seven seas.

The steady increase in carbon dioxide output is due to the increasing use of fossil fuels such as coal, wood, natural gas and, of course, petroleum.

Part of this carbon dioxide is absorbed by the oceans but little is known in detail about the processes involved.

Climatologists are currently taking a detailed look at data collected in bygone centuries. They hope to outline long-term trends in greater detail than has previously been possible.

More is known about these trends but views still differ considerably on whether, for instance, there could be a recurrence of the Ice Age in currently temperate zones.

German and American meteorologists held different views on the carbon dioxide problem. The Americans were worried about the possibility of climate changes being brought about by human activity, especially the continual increase in fossil fuel utilisation. The Germans were less alarmed.

Reduced use of fossil fuels recommended

Professor Hans Hinzpeter said: "I feel an effect can be said to have been caused by carbon dioxide increasing in the atmosphere as a result of the increasing use of fossil fuels.

"If one were to be cautious in this, as in other sectors, in view of the prospect of future burdens on the environment, one would probably have to cut back consumption of fossil fuels."

But this was a general statement he personally would not like to give undue emphasis. German meteorologists are less keen to go out on a limb than their US colleagues.

The Hamburg conference as a whole was none too keen on overexposure to publicity. The experts kept mainly to themselves. But the issues they dealt with concern us all.

Wolfgang Rieger

(Deutsche Allgemeine Sonntagsblatt, 6 September 1981)

Dish antenna in Tromsö, Norway, used in examinig the upper atmosphere in arctic and sub-arctic zones, in an international venture called Icecat. (Photo: MPO)

Radar graduates from enemy aircraft detection

Radar, developed to detect enemy aircraft 40 years ago, has emerged as one of the most sensitive and efficient means of probing developments in the outer atmosphere.

It is one of the major features of the six-nation Icecat project inaugurated on 26 August by King Carl Gustav of Sweden in Kiruna, the northern Swedish iron ore city.

Icecat is a new and permanent research facility for investigating the upper atmosphere in Arctic and sub-Arctic zones.

It is a geophysical joint venture backed by Norway, Sweden, Finland, Britain, France and the Federal Republic of Germany, for which the Max Planck Society is involved.

Basically, Icecat consists of twin radar systems, one on a 22cm wavelength in the UHF sector, the other on a 134cm wavelength in the VHF sector.

Scientific research is based on the incoherent distribution of radio waves among free electrons in the upper atmosphere.

Electromagnetic waves reflected from the ground to the uper atmosphere make free electrons oscillate in the ionosphere and magnetosphere.

Each oscillating electron works like a minute dipole antenna that in its turn reflects electromagnetic waves in all directions, but incoherently and on another wavelength.

The signal received on the ground, the echo of the original impulse, is the radiation of such electrons in the ionised gas of the upper atmosphere.

By careful analysis of these signals reflected, a large number of physical properties of the ionosphere and magnetosphere can be ascertained.

They include the density and temperature of electrons, the temperature and mass of ions, the density of neutral gas and the average speed of ionised gas.

Inferences can then be drawn as to current systems in the ionosphere, large electrical fields and the input of energy-laden particles from outer space.

Identifying such phenomena is as complex an operation as trying to spot a coin several hundred kilometres away by means of radar.

So large antennas and high-powered transmitters need to be used. In the shorter-wave UHF system three 32-metre dish antennas are used. The mean output of the transmitter is 250 kilowatts.

The three antennas, in Tromsö, Kiruna and Sodankylä (in Norway, Sweden and Finland respectively), are particularly well suited for tracking spatial movement of ionospheric plasma.

In the VHF system the antenna bowl is shaped like a parabolic cylinder cut open with a diameter of 120 metres and a depth of 40 metres.

Its mean transmission output is 650 kilowatts and the reflector, with its four swing sections, is used both to transmit and to receive.

Research work on the Icecat project is basic and fundamental, rather than aimed at any immediate practical use. Its aim is to learn more about the complex interaction between the magnetosphere, the ionosphere and the lower reaches of the atmosphere in the Northern lights zone.

How, for instance, is one to determine convection in the upper ionosphere under the influence of electric fields in the magnetosphere?

Variations in solar wind change the intensity and geographical location of convection currents, the Icecat can measure these electrical fields and currents.

The Northern lights zone is of particular interests because it is here that the earth's magnetic field enters the earth and the interaction is most apparent.

Or at least, it is most clearly apparent if correctly analysed and rightly interpreted, scientists say.

Robert Gerwin

(Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz, 29 August 1981)

Gulf Stream's effect on the climate

The Gulf Stream splits up in the Atlantic and only a small part of it heads for north-western Europe, scientists report from the 57th mission of *Meteor*, the Hamburg-based research vessel.

According to the German Hydrographical Institute, which owns the ship, the scientific programme for this mission was drawn up at Kiel University.

Its objective was to learn more about the Gulf Stream's role in bringing about the climate of north-western Europe.

Meteor worked in joint harness with *Poseidon*, the Kiel research vessel, in waters south-east and north of the Azores to track the progress in the North Atlantic of heat carried by the Gulf Stream from the Caribbean and along the eastern seaboard of America to Newfoundland.

Measuring systems were anchored in positions in these waters to record currents for several years. Temperature and salt readings will, the Hamburg institute says, tell us more about the horizontal and vertical structure of the warm Gulf Stream water.

Buoys were also set loose to measure drift. Their direction and data would be recorded by satellite for several months to enable conclusions to be reached on the influence of wind on surface currents.

Much of the research programme was drawn up by Kiel University scientists but other research facilities in the Federal Republic of Germany were also involved.

The exchange of gas between the ocean and the atmosphere was, for instance, recorded to keep track of traces of gas and particles released into the atmosphere as a result of industrialisation in the northern hemisphere.

For geological research samples of sediment were taken from the Central Atlantic ridge. They are to be compared with existing samples taken from the Eastern Atlantic continental shelf.

ddp

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 5 September 1981)

■ LITERATURE

Characters who make moral decisions

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At work one bright summer day he is paralysed by a stroke and comes round in hospital to find himself both paralysed and struck dumb.

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As one character in the novel puts it: "If you have no ambition you can never be a loser."

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Uli makes despairing bids to get through to her, making her realise she is the only person who can help him.

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He also avoids the sense of outrage, aimed in an almost hackneyed way solely at claims to which the disabled are entitled, that has lately characterised at times the debate on relations between the handicapped and the world of the healthy.

Lenz evidently is trying to remind us of the simple but important truth that human solidarity, taken seriously as a moral obligation, is of crucial significance.

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The person hit by such a loss has to feel he continues to be acknowledged and accepted for himself; otherwise he will give himself up and succumb to despair.

In this, as in past novels, Siegfried Lenz is a moralist. Like Heinrich Böll, he is a writer who tells the tales of clearly outlined characters capable of taking moral decisions.

He retains humanity as an option, a possibility that still remains in a world that is anything but harmonious.

This kind of topic and a traditionally orientated narrative style have earned Lenz his popularity with his reading public.

By no means infrequently they have also got him into trouble with the critics. He has been accused of lacking a clear insight into the incurable condition of the modern world.

He has been accused of failing to appreciate the desolation of the individual and the inappropriateness of conventional modes of portrayal.

His new novel shows Lenz not to belong to the category of do-or-die modern authors who dispense altogether with conventional narrative forms.

He is not a writer to harp exclusively on the desperate ego-decline and destruction of all modes of contact between individuals.

Lenz can set against this literature of hopelessness the simple fact that we all still manage to come to terms with each other about the world around us by means of narration.

Besides, he can fairly argue that human life would be impossible to lead were there not reasonable grounds for confidence in the success of bids to reach understanding and in the possibility of meaningful activity.

This confidence can, of course, always be disappointed. Relations are always endangered. The world is growing increasingly alien and hostile to mankind.

These are facts that the books of moralists Lenz and Böll by no means omit to mention.

Siegfried Lenz's latest novel may be gratifying in many ways, but there can be no overlooking a number of formal shortcomings.

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(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 29 August 1981)

Getting the right mix of science with the fiction

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The conference was very much what it promised to be, a get-together of insiders, and as is usual in such cases, no-one for a moment thought to take a critical look at the genre.

Nuremberg SF writer Kurt Karl Doberer concluded, in a somewhat sluggish platform debate, that science fiction really must be just what the name implies: science fiction.

Both the conference organisers and their guests seemed satisfied with this question-begging definition.

This is not to say there was no-one at the Nuremberg conference who might not have had more to say on the subject. But the man who, more than anyone else, might have been able to shed light on it preferred not to do so.

He was Herbert W. Franke, a professor of cybernetics and physics and one of the best and most successful current German SF writers.

Unfortunately, he only attended for a short while and voiced his views on his subject as a scientist and a writer on the periphery of the conference.

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best SF is steadily improving in quality," he said.

He should know, being himself largely responsible for the improvement in German SF, but gratifying though the trend may be, it applies only to the best of SF.

The run-of-the-mill was only too obvious from the German publishers' output on show in the foyer. Moewig, Goldmann, Ullstein and Heyne still put quantity before quality.

Quality was not, of course, on the agenda, so it went without saying that Herbert W. Franke chose not to criticise his fellow-writers and potential readers.

He said the conference was positive and, as a matter of principle, very much to be welcomed. He could have said more but preferred to keep his own counsel.

Maybe he had intended to make a few critical comments, but the author of *Zone Null* (Zero Zone), *Einsteins Gehirn* (Einstein's Brain) and *Paradies 3000* (Paradise 3000) could be excused for changing his mind.

The sight of a number of SF fans brandishing plastic laser guns and wearing long leather boots and unimaginative spoof uniforms would have been enough to discourage anyone.

In speeches and conversation it was said time and again that Wild West methods and ideas must be kept out of outer space.

But SF writer Walter Ernsting (whose non-de-plume is Clark Darlton) added that there were, unfortunately, bound to be clashes (and wars) in SF, given that they still occurred on earth.

True enough, perhaps, but he unfortunately forgot to refer to SF novels and films in which fighting and viole[nce] seem, not to be just the spice of lif[e] its sole purpose.

Many other points went unmentio[ned] at the conference, which was held in appropriately concrete surroundings Langwasser community centre.

Nasa's Jesco von Puttkamer ga[ve a] lecture and slide show on the S[pace] Shuttle programme that proved again what smart space operators Americans are.

But he had nothing to say about billions that are needlessly spent space research.

And only in a subordinate clause he concede that the US space p[ro]gramme was geared in part to mili[tary] requirements. To who else's?

Maybe an SF fan might see fit to [send] him the latest edition of *Polaris*, Suhrkamp science fiction alma[nac] which includes some very fine sto[ries] (including one by Franke).

Jörg Weigand's *Der Traum des Astronauten* (The Astronaut's Dream) the one Puttkamer would do wel[l to] read, however.

After a long journey through sp[ace] the astronaut returns to earth to hav[e his] brains bashed in by humans who ta[ke a] dim view of his achievement.

Permanent occupancy of space, as [pro]pulated by Nasa and Puttkamer, is [no] longer the priority. "Who cares ab[out] the stars?" Weigand's humanity as[ks]. "Our kids are starving."

An idea of what Professor Franke [might] have meant with his reference [to] steady improvement at the top was [con]veyed solely by scientific writer Susa[nne] Päch in a well-researched paper [on] Space Utopias: A History of Space Trav[el] in Literature and Art.

One learnt at last that there was mo[re] to science fiction than Jules Verne [and] Perry Rhodan (the German SF pulp ma[gazine hero]).

Perry Rhodan writers are not ... on Jules Verne, incidentally. Not ... nothing is Verne invariably cited as the classic SF writer.

Susanne Päch also mentioned K... Lasswitz and H. G. Wells, paving the way for a reference to writers wh[ose] names have been forgotten altogether.

Take, for instance, sensitive, po... Paul Scheerbart or subtle, ironic ...mann Harry Schmitz.

Maybe we will begin to recall that ... first SF stories dated back to An[cient] Greece and Egypt, including the desc[rip]tion by Lucian of a voyage to the m[oon] and the satirical utopias portrayed [by] Aristophanes.

Or take the distinguished Polish ... ter Stanislaw Lem, who is 60 this [au]tumn. But even if one's standards [are] less exacting than Lem's, Noris Con ... leaves the outside observer feeli[ng a lit]tle unhappy.

It wasn't just that Erich von D[äniken], the swashbuckling Swiss utopian ... of *Chariots of the Gods*, put in ... token appearance and had ... say.

What made one feel the entire ... tion was somewhat dubious w[as the way] in which SF fans presented the...

How else is one to assess th... ty of a Nuremberg SF club that ... displays commercial plastic ... Spaceship Enterprise, and ... veteran TV fare of the soap ... ty, behind glass?

Michael ...

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 31 August ...)

OBITUARY

Albert Speer haunted until the end by involvement with genocide

[Al]bert Speer, who died at 76 on a [visit] to London, was dubbed by his[torian Gol]o Mann 'the devil's architect.'

[No]w he is dead many attempts will [be] made to find a fitting epithet for [Hitler']s architect and wartime Minister [of Ar]ms Production.

[Albert] Speer, who served a 20-year pri[son] sentence for his part in the Nazi [slave] labour programme, is not so easy [to pi]geonhole.

[Se]ntenced at Nuremberg, he spent his [20] years in Spandau gaol yet remained [what] he had always been: one of the [most] contradictory public figures of the [Thir]d Reich.

[He] was neither an ex-serviceman nor [a lad] of the breed that fought in po[litical] brawls in the declining years of [the] Weimar Republic.

[Spe]er first got to know Adolf Hitler [in] the early 30s and was fascinated by [bot]h the Führer and the opportunities [this a]cquaintanceship opened up for him [as a] young architect.

[H]e dedicated himself to a system [i]n which, despite growing doubts, he [cou]ld no longer escape.

Even in the spring of 1945, when the [reg]ime was on its last legs and Hitler [or]dered Germany itself to be laid waste, [Spe]er managed to overcome his scruples.

Much though they may have troubled [hi]m, when it came to crunch he pledged [un]conditional loyalty to the Führer.

Yet for a twofold reason Albert Speer is well worth taking a closer look at, and historians, philosophers, psychoanalysts and any number of publicists have already done so.

The part he played in the Third Reich and the remarkable way in which he came to terms with his past in his memoirs continue to provide material for delving into the darkest period in German history.

He was a well-known Mannheim architect's son and thus a member of the upper middle class who came into contact with the wheels of power at an early age.

Speer was in many ways representative of a German Establishment without whose support Hitler would have run out of steam in next to no time, one imagines.

He was one of the young technocrats who were needed once the purist Nazi ideologists or speechifying bodyguard-type Nazis of the early period were no longer in demand.

These youngsters were needed to get the war machine moving or to organise emergency arrangements on the home front.

He and his like were later accused of having been deeply unpolitical, interchangeable and as useful to a democracy as to a dictatorship.

This, the argument ran, was what made technocrats so dangerous.

Soon after the war Speer began to consider what truth there was in such allegations. Unlike most of the other men in the dock at Nuremberg, he pleaded guilty.

In several books he later outlined the change he underwent, viewing his past with a growing sense of detachment and prompting, incidentally, a variety of responses.

Frankfurt psychoanalyst Alexander Mitscherlich, a subtle observer of his fellow-men, noted in a 1975 article for *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* that:

"In many ways he (Speer) has an intact Protestant super-ego. The admission of guilt he made at Nuremberg and has made on several occasions since is couched in extremely general terms and sounds distinctly pallid."

Even so, Albert Speer cannot be said to have been one of the incorrigibles.

One naturally wonders to what extent Speer deliberately staged his confessions. In 1975 Carl Améry, the writer, a former concentration camp inmate, called on him to make atonement in private and on his own.

His self-recriminations have never been total. Many were qualified by unsure-sounding statements about how



Albert Speer . . . fascinated by the Führer. (Photo: Sven Simon)

he came to terms with Hitler, for whom architecture was long a medium of special importance.

The relevant passages in Speer's memoirs often read as though someone, slightly shocked, were viewing himself from a definite distance.

Maybe this was the instinctive way in which he ensured survival. Much of what he wrote testified to astonishment at the way in which he fell for Hitler.

He never does seem to have arrived at a convincing explanation. He certainly seems until his dying day to have been haunted by the fact that he had served a regime which channelled its energy into genocide.

It could hardly have committed more heinous crimes.

Roderich Reifenrath

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 3 September 1981)

■ LITERATURE

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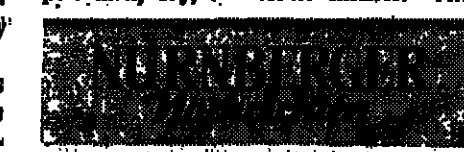
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Nasa's Jesco von Puttkamer gav[e a] lecture and slide show on the Sp[ace] Shuttle programme that proved again what smart space operators Americans are.

But he had nothing to say about billions that are needlessly spent space research.

And only in a subordinate clause he concede that the US space programme was geared in part to mil[itary] requirements. To who else's?

Maybe an SF fan might see fit to [give] him the latest edition of *Polaris*, Suhrkamp science fiction alma[nac] which includes some very fine sto[ries] (including one by Franke).

Jörg Weigand's *Der Traum des Astronauten* (The Astronaut's Dream) the one Puttkamer would do w[ell to] read, however.

After a long journey through sp[ace] the astronaut returns to earth to have brains bashed in by humans who ta[ke a] dim view of his achievement.

Permanent occupancy of space, as [postu]pulated by Nasa and Puttkamer, is longer the priority. "Who cares ab[out] the stars?" Weigand's humanity "Our kids are starving."

An idea of what Professor Franke [may] have meant with his reference t[o the] steady improvement at the top was [con]veyed solely by scientific writer Susa[nne] Päch in a well-researched paper [on] Space Utopias: A History of Space Trav[el] in Literature and Art.

One learnt at last that there was mo[re] to science fiction than Jules Verne [and] Perry Rhodan (the German SF pulp [ma]gazine hero).

Perry Rhodan writers are not a pa[tch] on Jules Verne, incidentally. Not [for] nothing is Verne invariably cited as th[e] classic SF writer.

Susanne Päch also mentioned K[urd] Lasswitz and H. G. Wells, paving t[he] way for a reference to writers wh[ose] names have been forgotten altogether.

Take, for instance, sensitive, po[et] Paul Scheerbart or subtle, ironic H[er]mann Harry Schmitz.

Maybe we will begin to recall that t[he] first SF stories dated back to Anc[ient] Greece and Egypt, including the descrip[tion] by Lucian of a voyage to the mo[on] and the satirical utopias portrayed [by] Aristophanes.

Or take the distinguished Polish w[ri]ter Stanislaw Lem, who is 60 this [au]tumn. But even if one's standards less exacting than Lem's, Noris Co[n] leaves the outside observer feeling [a lit]tle unhappy.

It wasn't just that Erich von D[äniken,] the swashbuckling Swiss utopian of *Chariots of the Gods*, put in [a] token appearance and had nothin[g to] say.

What made one feel the entire tion was somewhat dubious was the in which SF fans presented themse[lves].

How else is one to assess the ty of a Nuremberg SF club that displays commercial plastic mo[dels of] Spaceship Enterprise and ... veteran TV fare of the soap opera ty, behind glass?

Michael Bock

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 31 August 1981)

OBITUARY

Albert Speer haunted until the end by involvement with genocide

[Al]bert Speer, who died at 76 on a [v]isit to London, was dubbed by his[torian] Golo Mann 'the devil's architect.'

[N]ow he is dead many attempts will [be m]ade to find a fitting epithet for [Hitler]'s architect and wartime Minister [of Ar]ms Production.

[Bu]t Speer, who served a 20-year pri[son s]entence for his part in the Nazi [slave] labour programme, is not so easy [to pig]eonhole.

[Sen]tenced at Nuremberg, he spent his [ye]ars in Spandau gaol yet remained [what] he had always been: one of the [most] contradictory public figures of the [Thir]d Reich.

[He] was neither an ex-serviceman nor [on]e of the breed that fought in po[litical] brawls in the declining years of [the] Weimar Republic.

[Sp]eer first got to know Adolf Hitler [in th]e early 30s and was fascinated by [bo]th the Führer and the opportunities [this ac]quaintanceship opened up for him [as a] young architect.

[H]e dedicated himself to a system [from] which, despite growing doubts, he [cou]ld no longer escape.

[Eve]n in the spring of 1945, when the [Reich] was on its last legs and Hitler [want]ed Germany itself to be laid waste, [he o]nly managed to overcome his scruples.

[M]uch though they may have troubled [him], when it came to crunch he pledged [unco]nditional loyalty to the Führer.

Yet for a twofold reason Albert Speer is well worth taking a closer look at, and historians, philosophers, psychoanalysts and any number of publicists have already done so.

The part he played in the Third Reich and the remarkable way in which he came to terms with his past in his memoirs continue to provide material for delving into the darkest period in German history.

He was a well-known Mannheim architect's son and thus a member of the upper middle class who came into contact with the wheels of power at an early age.

Speer was in many ways representative of a German Establishment without whose support Hitler would have run out of steam in next to no time, one imagines.

He was one of the young technocrats who were needed once the purist Nazi ideologists or speechifying bodyguard-type Nazis of the early period were no longer in demand.

These youngsters were needed to get the war machine moving or to organise emergency arrangements on the home front.

He and his like were later accused of having been deeply unpolitical, interchangeable and as useful to a democracy as to a dictatorship.

This, the argument ran, was what made technocrats so dangerous.

Soon after the war Speer began to consider what truth there was in such allegations. Unlike most of the other men in the dock at Nuremberg, he pleaded guilty.

In several books he later outlined the change he underwent, viewing his past with a growing sense of detachment and prompting, incidentally, a variety of responses.

Frankfurt psychoanalyst Alexander Mitscherlich, a subtle observer of his fellow-men, noted in a 1975 article for *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* that:

"In many ways he (Speer) has an intact Protestant super-ego. The admission of guilt he made at Nuremberg and has made on several occasions since is couched in extremely general terms and sounds distinctly pallid."

Even so, Albert Speer cannot be said to have been one of the incorrigibles.

One naturally wonders to what extent Speer deliberately staged his confessions. In 1975 Carl Améry, the writer, a former concentration camp inmate, called on him to make atonement in private and on his own.

His self-recriminations have never been total. Many were qualified by unsure-sounding statements about how he came to terms with Hitler, for whom architecture was long a medium of special importance.

Albert Speer ... fascinated by the Führer. (Photo: Sven Simon)

The relevant passages in Speer's memoirs often read as though someone, slightly shocked, were viewing himself from a definite distance.

Maybe this was the instinctive way in which he ensured survival. Much of what he wrote testified to astonishment at the way in which he fell for Hitler.

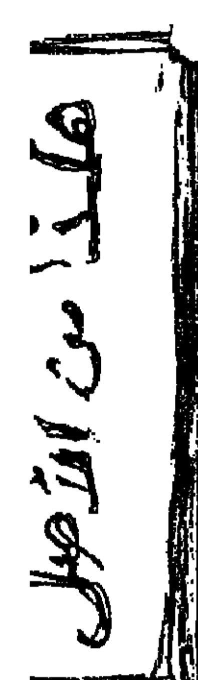
He never does seem to have arrived at a convincing explanation. He certainly seems until his dying day to have been haunted by the fact that he had served a regime which channelled its energy into genocide.

It could hardly have committed more heinous crimes.

Roderich Reifenrath

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 3 September 1981)





...ne will never be the same again ... the traditional kindergarten

West German kindergartens have achieved more in the past 10 years than in the 200 years since the movement began.

The main reason: a movement called *Kinderläden*, children's shops.

Children's shops were established in 1968 on the initiative of student parents. They turned traditional ideas upside down and their anti-authoritarian bias caused widespread controversy.

The aim was to bolster a child's independence and help him to cope with conflicts, by letting him or her choose what to do.

Something of the new approach has rubbed off on the traditional kindergarten, as a university study now reveals,

Professor Horst Nickel, of Düsseldorf University's department of educational psychology, says that the shops are better than their reputation suggests and kindergartens are not as bad as they are made out to be.

Children from both streams are closer in attitude than is generally assumed.

In a way, the study considers, the influence of the children's shops on kindergartens has been as favourable as was that of the "free schools" on the general school system in the early years of the 20th century.

Over seven years the researchers observed 75 pre-school institutions, 45 children's shops and 10 Catholic, 10 Protestant and 10 municipal kindergartens.

They also ran an opinion survey involving 200 children's shops.

The results of the study, which was backed by the German Society for Peace and Conflict Research, have now been presented in six volumes ("Studies on Teacher and Parent Attitudes, and the Social Attitudes of Children in Parent Initiative Groups and Kindergartens").

Nickel and his staff say more happens in the shops and the children show more initiative. They are socially more active and much more cooperative than in traditional kindergartens.

The edge the shops have over kindergartens begins with space and its division: apart from group rooms, they frequently have several additional small rooms. The area set aside for play is twice as large per child as in kindergartens.

In addition, the furnishings are mostly more intimate (intended for one group only) and the groups are smaller (17 as against 27 in the kindergarten). The teacher-children ratio is also better in the shops. This means that shop teachers are in a better position to devote attention to parts of groups.

They can stimulate the children and deal with individual needs. And since the shops are more spacious the teachers tend to be more satisfied with their work. This in turn benefits the children.

The Düsseldorf researchers observed and analysed how these differences affect such typical kindergarten activities as painting and handicrafts.

They noted how the children were guided; whether a child was made to join in activities against its will; and how the teachers cope with such a child.

In kindergartens, the children who paint are usually kept in the same room with other children and are frequently looked after by the same teacher. As a



result, many kindergarten teachers tend to include all children in guided group activities regardless of their individual inclination. This gives such activities an "enforced character".

In the shops, on the other hand, children and teachers withdraw into smaller rooms to paint, which enables the teacher to concentrate entirely on the painting group.

Children who do not feel like painting are therefore not constantly told to be quiet or chided for disturbing the others; and, by the same token, the children who want to paint do not have to be told to concentrate.

Surprisingly, kindergarten children are much more active in doing the preparatory work for painting (like putting tables together or getting the necessary paints and paper from the cupboard).

Since it is the declared aim of the shops to promote independence and initiative, it would seem natural to expect exactly the opposite.

But the inconsistency is only apparent. There are many more guided activities in kindergarten than in shops. This means that kindergarten children acquire more routine in doing such preparatory work, are better "trained" and therefore give the impression of being more independent than their opposite numbers in the shops where activities are triggered more on spontaneous impulse.

As a result, life in the shops is less "planned," more spontaneous and therefore inevitably gives the impression of a certain "disorderliness".

Kindergarten teachers frequently admonish the children to paint "neatly" without telling them what exactly they mean.

This attitude is much more infrequent at the shops. And this, the Düsseldorf researchers say, reflects the more pronounced rejection by the shops of competition as an educational principle.

But this does not mean that the shops do entirely without instruction, admonishment and don'ts, thus forgoing authoritarian guidance altogether — as has frequently been assumed.

The children's shops have always held that discipline is necessary but that it must be based on rules and aims that the children understand. As a result, the shops draw no clear and permanent line between the rules that are necessary to make a community function and the need for the free development of the individual.

Such rules are reviewed constantly in the light of new situations and, if necessary, changed.

The tediousness and difficulty here is borne out by the many heated discussions on this very subject in parent-teacher meetings. But the reward is a happy and well balanced group of children who enjoy themselves.

Shops make an all-out effort to do justice to the individual child — but not at any cost.

The idea is to take everybody into account: children, teachers and parents.

The more friendly and understanding type of teacher who goes along with the feelings and sentiments of the children is therefore more frequently found in the shops than in kindergartens.

But this type of teacher is less interested in developing abilities the child will need at school. Typical pre-school work is therefore done less frequently than under other teachers.

Despite the differences between the two types of pre-schooling, the researchers give generally good marks to the teachers in both. In fact, the authoritarian and totally detached type of teacher has virtually disappeared.

The researchers divide the teachers into roughly three categories. The first is the encouraging and stimulating teacher who spontaneously responds to the emotions of the children and helps each one individually in such activities as painting, cooking, handicrafts, etc.

The second type is more detached and not exactly encouraging. He resorts to dos, don'ts and admonishments and tries to guide rather than stimulate. He rarely addresses the children personally though he does lend a helping hand on occasion. The third category is neither unfriendly nor particularly outgoing. He does little to promote initiative in the individual and barely attempts to ... ence a child's behaviour. He issues instructions and there are few, th... impulses coming from him. He has ... tually no relationship with the indiv... child. Though the researchers say th... three types are found in the diff... types of pre-school institutions, the ... type is clearly more frequently fou... the shops and the third is more lik... be found in kindergartens.

One of the observations made i... course of the survey is rather sta... It transpired that the attitudes of ... dren and teachers in cases of co... were markedly at odds with the ... tional concepts.

This means that compromis... other words, solutions without wi... loser were in the minority. The ch... frequently resolved their conflicts ... selves, resorting to aggressive me... and it was mostly the intruder ... gained the upper hand. Other chi... tended to withdraw from the confl... together or not get involved in the ... place.

The family remains an importan... tor in a child's development; and ... the shops have another edge over t... tional kindergartens inasmuch as ... parents are much more involved i... organisation and educational prin... than is the case with indergartens.

But the study also found that ... practical involvement was dimini... and that the teachers have been gi... more and more say in the day-to... running of the shop.

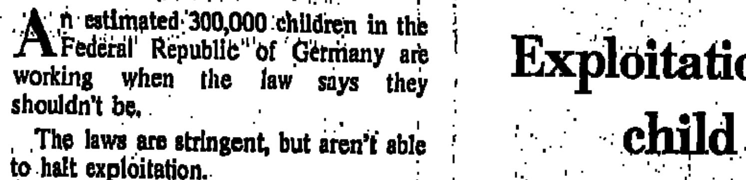
There are conspicuous differenc... the way in which parents deal with ... children's conflicts. Those who ... their children to a kindergarten ten... smooth over disputes on the surfa... ther than go into them in any d... Their attitude is: Well, it wasn't a... bad, was it? They are also much ... authoritarian towards their chi... when conflicts arise.

Parents who send their children ... shops, on the other hand, are more ... critical and their attitude towards ... children is more partner-like. They ... also warmer towards their children ... take them more seriously. Unlike ... dergarten parents, they do not use th... own upbringing as a yardstick for th... children.

Kindergarten mothers are more li... to stress their authority when it co... to family matters, while shop par... consider both house and family a... and outside involvement a matter ... both parents.

Renate I. M...
Deutscher Forschungs...

(Deutsche Allgemeines Sonntags... 6 September ...)



Exploitation of child labour thrives

An estimated 300,000 children in the Federal Republic of Germany are working when the law says they shouldn't be.

The laws are stringent, but aren't able to halt exploitation.

A common result of child labour is neglected education and sometimes ill health.

A typical example is that of a 12-year-old who developed problems at school. When his teacher talked to the parents in an effort to find out if anything was wrong, they proudly announced that the boy delivered bread early in the morning and helped out at a petrol station in the afternoon.

He was, in fact, working a nine-hour day.

A North Rhine-Westphalia businessman came up with a clever scheme: He hired a series of 13- or 14-year-old schoolgirls on a probationary basis, making them clean the shop and do other minor tasks without pay.

He promised them an apprenticeship after the probationary period. But he had no intention of honouring the promise.

The trick worked several times until the authorities caught him.

There are many such cases on record with the Society for the Protection of Children in Hanover.

The Society's administrator, Walter Wilken, has called on the authorities to enforce child labour legislation more vigorously.

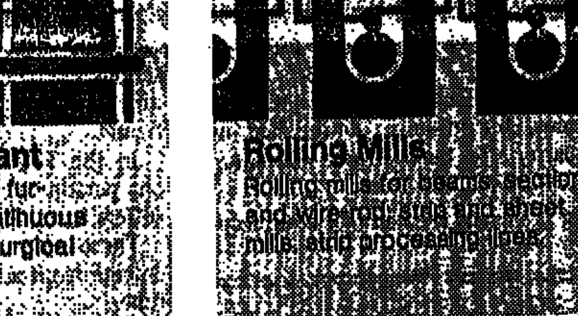
He also called on the courts to ... pose stiff penalties rather than tre... fenders as if they had committed a ... demeanour. Wilken demands a total ... on child labour. At present, there ... some exceptions provided ...

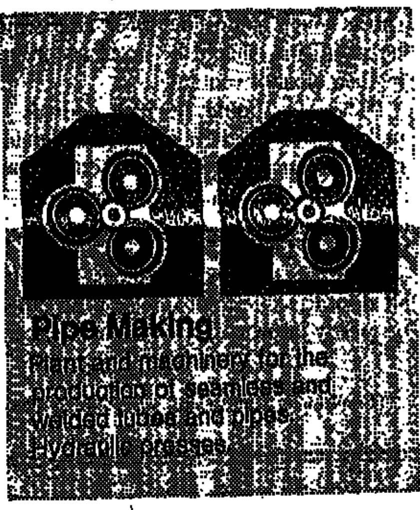
- Children from the ... onward may be employed in ...
- From the age of 13, the... lowed to deliver newspaper... hours a day;
- They may help ... three hours a day; and
- They may act as ... ing events.

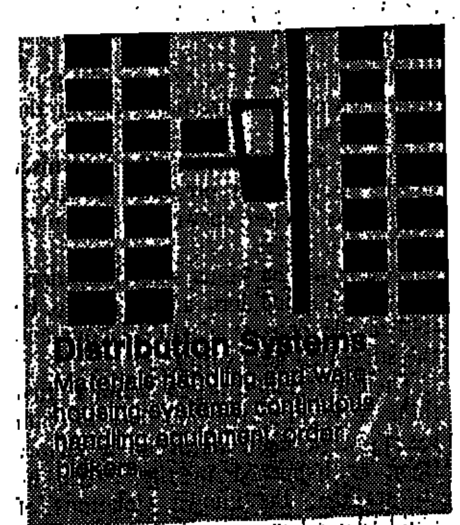
The law makes no provi... dren helping with ... nately, farm ... being part of the home and ... in them is regarded as housewo...

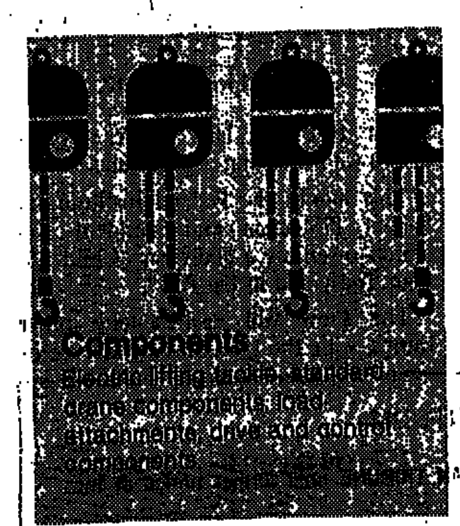
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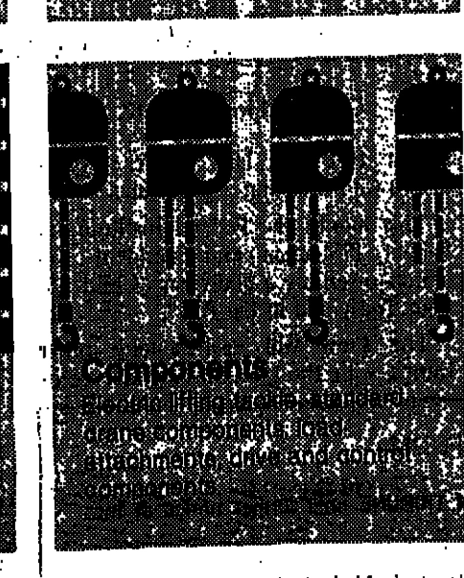


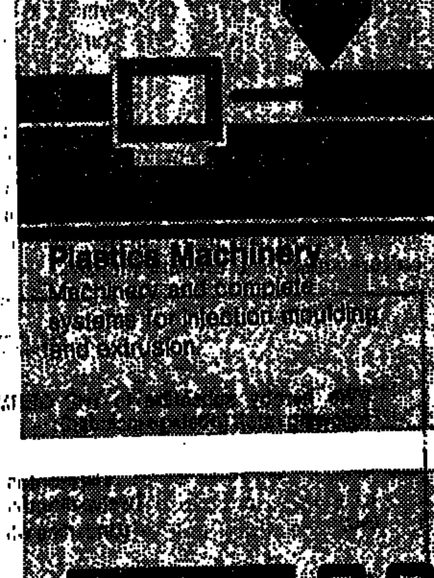


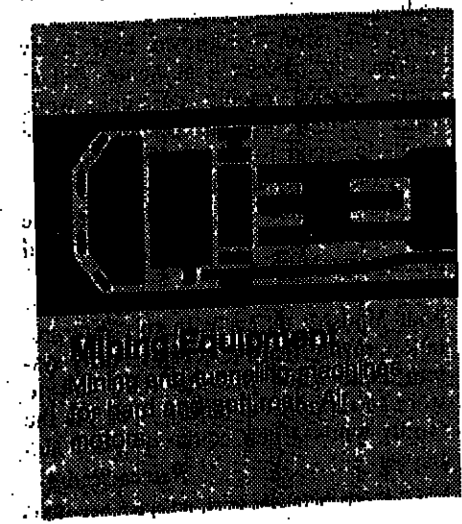




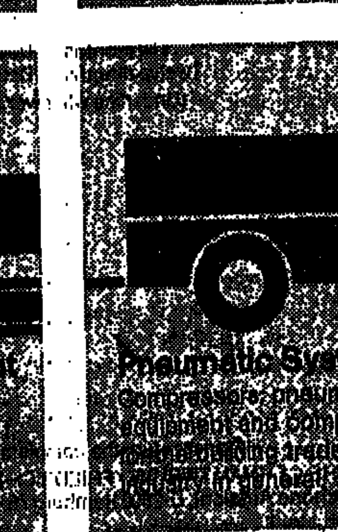


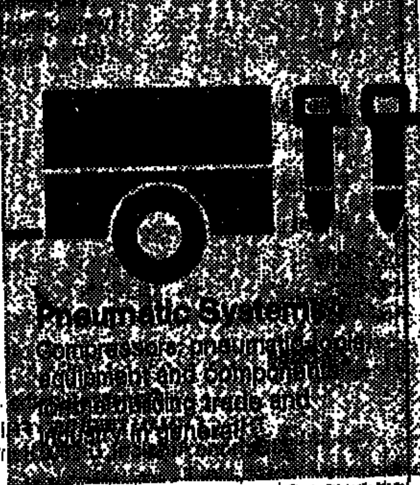












■ LITERA

C… or … and another . . .

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Frankfurter Rundschau

Alcohol consumption in the Federal Republic of Germany is growing fast. Last year, 12.7 litres of pure alcohol was consumed per head — and that figure is averaged out over the non-drinkers like teetotallers and children.

In 1950 the figure was only 3.27 litres.

There are now as many alcoholics in the country as diabetics — between 2 and 3 per cent of the population, between 1.5 and 1.8 million people.

A lot of the increase is due to women. They now drink almost as much as men.

It is a trend, similar to cigarette smoking, where women are becoming more and more like men in habit.

Women from what are called the upper social strata are especially prone.

Professor Wilhelm Feuerlein of the Max Planck Institute for Psychiatry in Munich says this because these women have either too much or too little work to do.

They don't drink socially, but only because they want to feel the effects of the alcohol as a way of solving problems. What happens, of course, is that problems only get worse.

Drink also has a physical effect if too much is consumed.

It has now been established that, given a daily consumption of 20 gram for a woman and 60 grams for a man, health is likely to suffer.

The significance of this does not become obvious until one converts grams into tots or glasses. Thus, for instance, the tolerance level for women of 20 grams of pure alcohol is reached with two tots of brandy, two-and-a-half tots of fruit-based *schnapps* or half a (0.7 litre) bottle of table wine; a 0.5-litre bottle of strong beer contains 21 grams of pure alcohol and a bottle of champagne 70 grams.

The public frequently pooh-poohs or suppresses the problem of alcoholism. This is partly due to the fact that many jobs hinge on alcohol in one form or another, as in the beer industry, in viticulture and in the catering industry.

The state, too, makes money on alcohol through taxes. And people who shape public opinionss, such as jounalists and TV personalities, are frequently sound drinkers themselves; and even doctors frequently tend to drink heavily and therefore suppress or minimise the problem.

The public's suppression mechanism have also influenced the image of the typical alcoholic.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines the alcoholic as an "excessive drinker whose dependence on alcohol has reached a degree where it impairs the mental processes and physical and mental health, affecting person-to-person relations and interfering with a person's social and economic functions."

Apart from the proven detrimental effects of alcohol on the liver, researchers have found additional damage.

It has for some time been known, for instance, that alcohol promotes the transformation of potentially carcinogenic agents. This makes it obvious that simultaneous consumption of alcohol and smoking increase the risk of lung cancer.

The functioning of male sex organs can also be impaired by alcohol, which can lead to a loss of libido, reduced fertility and a gradual feminisation of secondary sex organs. Sperm secretion can also be adversely affected.

Professor Feuerlein calls for higher taxes on all alcohol — and not only on spirits and champagne. Beer and wine, he maintains, should be taxed according to their alcohol content.

"The tax should be high enough to make alcoholic beverages considerably more expensive and thus reduce consumption. Denmark, Canada and a number of other countries have proved that this is feasible."

According to recent findings, virtually all disorders due to alcohol can be cured or greatly improved by total abstinence.

Ladislaus Kuthy

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 5 September 1981)

The bitter side of the pill: side effects

The pill, which is still the most reliable contraceptive, can cause side effects, especially to skin and hair.

Some side effects are harmless but others are dangerous, Professor Hansotto Zaun, medical director of the Hamburg University Hospital, told a therapy congress in Karlsruhe.

In secreting fat and sweat or forming pigments and growing hair, the skin is subject to the steering mechanisms of sex hormones.

If these mechanisms are impaired by additional hormones (like the synthetic ones contained in the pill) the skin, a vital organ, reacts with alarm signals.

Pill-induced changes and discolourations of the skin resemble those some women experience just prior to giving birth.

Thus, for instance, the facial skin frequently darkens due to increased deposits of the pigment melanin. This occurs in one out of five women who are on the pill.

This darkening of the skin has no pathological significance. Yet, many women are so disturbed by it that they prefer to discontinue the pill.

These skin blemishes are attributed to the synthetic hormones oestrogen and gestagen, though it is still unknown how they interact with bodily functions.

But dosage and duration of the hormone intake can be clearly determined from the conditions of the skin and the hair, regardless of the type of hormone used.

Such side effects as inflammation of the veins, for instance, diminished by one-quarter after the oestrogen content of the pill was reduced.

Most gestagens used in oral contraceptives are derivatives of the male hormone 19-nor-testosteron.

These substances have a masculin… effect. They can cause acne and … growth of body hair or sometimes b… ness.

Professor Zaun suggested that th… were not only harmless side effects … the pill. Others are acutely dangerous.

One of these is livedo racemosa, a … shaped, blue discolouration of the … caused by inflamed arteries. The … tion is aggravated by heavy smo… when it can damage the blood vesse… the brain and even cause a stroke, … disorder must be taken seriously … warning symptom.

Women who are particularly sensi… to light occasionally suffer from bu… fly-shaped red spots in the face … other discolourations or pustules.

Another common complaint is fun… infection in the genital region whic… said to occur in one out of three wo… who are on the pill.

Shingles contracted during pregn… can recur as a result of the oestrogen … take.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 4 September 1…)

Rise in minor mental disturbances

Three per cent of the world's po… tion have psychological pro… serious enough to need treatment, ac… ding to World Health Organisat… figures.

In the Federal Republic of German… one person in every 10 who sees a doct… suffers from depression.

These were some of the statistics … emerge from a therapy congress in Ka… ruhe.

Berlin psychiatrist Hanfried Helch… said it was not known if the Gem… figure reflected the fact that in real te… there are more people with psycholog… problems or simply that more people … going to doctors.

He said that there are no exact sta… tics on the subject.

Helchen, who is in charge of the … lin Free University Psychiatric Hosp… says there are indirect indications o… growing number of psychological di… ders.

He deduces this ftom the number … drug and narcotics addicts, the ratio … older people among them (who are … ticularly prone to depressions) and … fact that the modern way of life has … to the dismantling of social and fa… relations.

Tranquilisers, he told the cong… ranged among the most frequently … scribed drugs. Sales to outpatients … drugs amounted to about DMlbn … 1979.

He criticised the prescriptions for … minor reasons as examination jitters.

A Swiss-based Committee for the … vention and Therapy of Depressi… now trying to compile statistics … disorder and promote treatment.

The congress, attended by more … 10,000 doctors, dealt with a wide … of subjects, among them rheuma… genetic counselling and diagnos… therapy of cardiovascular disorders.

(Die Welt, 5 Septemb…)

Exploitation of child labour

Continued from page 12

means that the law equates drying dishes with mucking out a stable.

This month the Federal Institute for Labour Protection and Accident Research organises a show on "Child Labour Today and in the Past".

The show will deal, among other things, with the question whether competitive sport is to be seen in the same light as work in advertising or on the family farm.

Gernot Krankenhagen, the organiser of the show to be presented in Dortmund, has a clear answer to this question: Yes.

As a result, he wants something done about it. In addition, adults are to be told of the dangers of child labour and the stress that goes with it.

Though Krankenhagen admits that things have improved and that no child has to work eight hours on a factory floor, as happened in the 1920s, he stresses that the known violations of child labour laws are only the tip of the iceberg.

It will never be known how many children do piecework at home. But as some 300,000 people do such work, ranging from shrimp peeling in the north to wood carving in Bavaria, it is likely that many children are involved.

Large families and low incomes are still one of the main reasons for child labour, says Wilken.

But the North Rhine-Westphalia Labour Ministry differs with this interpretation, saying that the social security system is "so good that no child has to work to support the family — unless the family wants a new colour TV or a stereo set.

Rainer Strang

(Rheinische Post, 3 September 1981)

SPORT

Magic two metres still aim of high jumper Ulrike

…West German win an event in … Cup final in Rome was Ulrike … who cleared 1.96 metres to … her high jump record.

…Meyfarth has always been … and shoulders above the rest. …dergarten she towered over the … now, at 25, she is 1.88 metres, …

…height of the high jump bar has … of a problem in her life than … height. "At times I really had a … about it," she says.

…height particularly embarrassed … my mother wondered, with a … of despair, how I would ever get … myself a husband."

…she now has two men in her life. … her boy friend. She lives with … Cologne. He is a sports teacher … able to help her in her sporting …

…other is her coach, Gerd Rosen… the trainer who coached track star … Rosendahl to stardom. For the … years he has helped to shape … Meyfarth's career.

…ically," she says, thinking back to … when she won the Olympic high … gold medal at 16, "we were all ex… to do too much in those days."

…4 September 1972, with the child… that is the privilege of a teenager, she not only won Olympic gold at Munich but also set a new world record of 1.92 metres.

All Germany watched her on the TV screen and held its breath until her Fosbury flop was crowned with success. But it was not long before she had to face failure.

She had trouble clearing 1.80 metres. Officials, coaches and fans were at a loss to account for her abysmal form. She failed to recover from a fractured foot and a spell of bad luck.

"At one stage," she recalls, "I was even turfed out of the national squad and no longer qualified for a Sports Aid Foundation grant."

Four years after Munich she failed to qualify for the preliminary heats in Montreal and came a cropper in private life.

She failed to qualify for enrolment at the Sports Academy in Cologne. Olympic gold and top marks in sport were not enough for a university career, she was told.

But now she is jumping higher than ever before. "I've grown faster," she says, adding after a while "and more mature, more experienced, more disciplined. And more secure."

It was Rosenberg, her coach, who gave her this security. "Women need a steadying influence," she says, "and now I feel, I get on fine with him. He knows me well too." Her now coach gave her fresh pleasure from her athletics and between them they gave it another try. She feels that the Munich Olympics were a childhood experience. Athletics then was a compensation because she was not a great hit with boys. Now she has outgrown that. She has learnt. At the academy she came to realise that she was able to emerge from spells of depression stronger each time.

Ulrike Meyfarth. . . a complex no more. (Photo: dpa)

And she reckons her good seasons have been at intervals of three years. She jumped well in 1972, 1975, 1978 and 1981.

"Mentally too," she says, "everything has to be just right for an athlete, and it is much more important for women than for men."

She should know, having been through ups and downs in sport for the past nine years. This season she has been the most consistent woman high jumper in the world.

"I know any number of people who have retired before their time," she says. More attention should be paid to girls of 14 to 18, who are particularly likely to quit athletics.

These are her words of advice to amateur athletics officials, and she intends to delve more deeply into the subject herself too.

She is working on a Cologne thesis entitled Motivating and Training Young People Approaching Adulthood.

Again, she should know. She should be able to tell a tale or two on the strength of her personal experience.

She has no plans to retire yet. "Sport gives me self-assurance," she admits, "and you never know whether you might not be able to improve a little more on your personal best."

She would obviously love to clear two metres, no matter how much hard work it may entail, and as World Cup winner at Rome she can feel much more sure of herself.

Indeed, she may find it easier to jump two metres than to retire from athletics when the time comes.

Wolf Günthner

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 7 September 1981)

Kolbe takes world single sculls title in nerves-of-steel race

…th 25,000 fans cheering him … home from the grandstand of the … Olympic regatta course, Peter… Kolbe from Hamburg won his … world championship title in the … sculls.

…the 28-year-old Hamburg oars… sterling performance stood out in … contrast from the mediocrity of … West German team as a whole, who … ground hit rock bottom.

…three West German boats qua… for the finals: Kolbe in the single … the double fours combination … Ingelheim and Ulm and the eights, … used to be an odds-on favourite for … when they were coached by the late … Adam in Ratzeburg.

…double fours were reckoned a safe … silver this time, but finished … possibly more to their own cha… than to anyone else's.

…for the eights, they came a disap… fifth, which was below form … when one bears in mind that two … had to be substituted and two more … suffering from fever.

…eights performed best on the day … the finals when, in what must … been one of the most toe-biting … ever, five eights were level-pegging … 150 metres left.

…just scraped home to qualify for … final, but that was about it. Even so, … better than the other German … which failed miserably, virtually … in the towel long before the … of their respective heats.

…kfurt mail order magnate Josef …mann, Olympic dressage gold …list and head of the Sports Aid …dation, was shattered.

…is absolutely scandalous when … do not fight until the finish in … world championship in their own …try," he said.

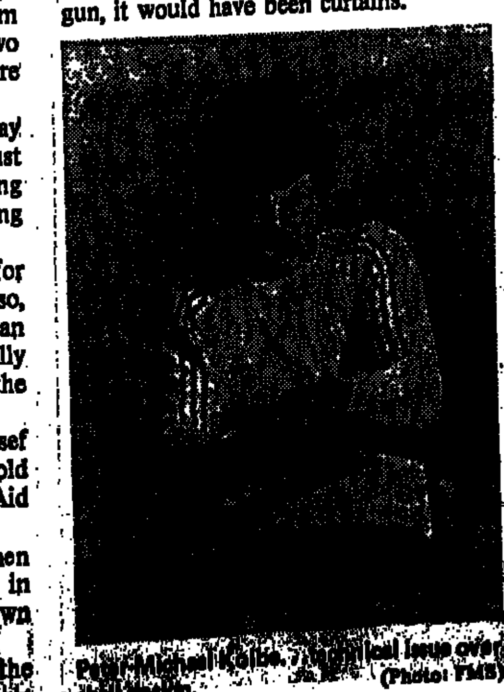
…Claus Hess, president of the … Rowing Association for the past 15 years, it was his oarsmen's worst showing yet. He was unusually harsh in his criticism.

"We have all made mistakes," he said. "We shall have to analyse them. The failure of coaching staff and oarsmen is sure to have consequences.

"Not enough work has been put in this year, and certainly not the right work. The only exceptions have been Kolbe, the eights and the double fours — in that order."

Kolbe showed nerves of steel when he was warned by the starter for warming up in his lane, which is prohibited. If he had then been faulted for jumping the gun, it would have been curtains.





Peter-Michael Kolbe … technical issue over shell design. (Photo: FMS)

So he held his fire, and the noise of the starter's pistol was blowing in the wind before he got off to a cautious start.

The headwind made the water choppy, which was far from ideal for his new boat, with its fixed seat and moving outrigger design, because it has no washboard to keep the waves at bay.

So Rüdiger Reiche from Potsdam in the GDR made the initial running, but Kolbe had beaten Reiche twice before, in the 1978 and 1979 world championships.

Kolbe's yellow skiff steadily gained ground, ploughing through the water as if were being pulled on a piece of string.

He had drawn level with Reiche after a mere 300 metres, and by 500 metres he was clearly leading the field.

But he chose to err on the side of caution rather than fade as he had done in the finals at Montreal five years before.

Kolbe has grown older, wiser and more level-headed. He preferred to conserve every last ounce of energy it was not essential to give.

He kept an eye on Reiche, who limited himself to a few despairing bids to shorten the distance between them and eventually had to concentrate on making sure of the silver medal.

John Biglow of the United States challenged hard from third place, but this was the order in which they passed the post.

None of the other three finalists stood much of a chance. They were Baillieu of Britain, Ibaara of Argentina and Alexander of New Zealand.

Despite the 25,000 Munich fans and their vocal support Kolbe preferred not to risk a spectacular finish and remained very much his old self.

But when Thomas Keller, president of the International Rowing Federation, presented him with the gold medal his eyes welled with tears of joy nonetheless.

He had shown himself for the fourth time to be the world's best single sculls man, first in the 1973 European Open championships, then in the 1975 and 1978 world championships.

Officials were meanwhile debating whether his new boat design ought not to be banned. It was, some argued, a further technical perfection to the detriment of poorer member-countries of the international body.

Maybe it was just sour grapes. Kolbe himself said: "The idea is a century old, but nothing has been done about the design in the past because it has always had technical shortcomings.

"So why should my boat be banned? It works and is no more expensive than a conventional model."

What about his retirement plans? He is undecided: "After major races in the past I have been a little overhasty in saying I was going to retire.

"This time I am saying nothing. I'll think it over."

So he should; there is still one trophy missing in his collection: an Olympic gold medal that would ensure him a place in the oarsmen's hall of fame.

In the Munich world championships Kolbe looked so good that at Los Angeles in three years' time, when he will be 31, he might well make his dream of Olympic gold come true.

Moritz von Groddeck

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 7 September 1981)